LWN LONDON WEEKLY NEWS GROUP

Chelsea NEWS

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Parent power delays cut in funding for play services

COUNCIL SAYS LOW INCOME FAMILIES WILL BE SUPPORTED

A PROTEST by angry Kensington residents against council plans to stop subsidies for after-school childcare has forced councillors to suspend the plan which parents say could cost the average family at least an extra £1,755 a year.

Following a Save Our Play Service demonstration by parents and children at the Town Hall last week, Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council decided to defer making a decision on the controversial scheme until next year.

Parents waving placards protested outside the Town Hall on Wednesday night and then crowded the council chamber, filling the public gallery and most of the press gallery too.

"We are very pleased that the council decided to suspend a decision until next year,' said Mrs Sada Hallak, one of the organisers of the protest.

"People power worked and this has given us a bit of hope, but we are going to keep up the momentum of our protest against the plan."

Parents are protesting against a proposal by Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council to drop subsidies and transfer its after-school and holiday childcare directly to primary schools and private providers from April next year.

● By LWN reporter **GEOFF BAKER**
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

The council says the plan has been forced by a fall in Government funding for child services of £12.3 million in the last four years, slashing its budget by a third.

Parents say the plan is a "privatisation of childcare" which could result in children dangerously hanging around on pavements outside schools as they wait for parents to collect them after work.

1,800 signature petition

The council says: "These plans would yield the greatest level of savings of over £1.3 million in the first three years."

But angry parents argue that there would be money in the budget for childcare if the council dropped its plan to bail out the loss-making Opera Holland Park with a £5 million payment.

A petition signed by 1,800 parents in the borough calls on the council to drop the strategy. Council documents reveal that under the new system childcare fees are expected to rise by between 15 per cent to 65 per cent.

"This plan is really upsetting for us, it has shaken many families in the community," said Mrs Hallak, spokesperson for the protesting parents who have accused the council of 'dummie tactics."

Mrs Hallack added: "The council has a quarter of a billion pounds in its reserves, which off the interest alone could fund the play service. It is giving away £5 million to the opera so it can afford to maintain the childcare service as it is and as it has been for 40 years. The council should not play with children's safety.

'Working parents rely on this service, knowing that our children can stay safe in play centres after school until parents can collect them after work.

■ TURN TO PAGE 3

■ **POPULAR: The Venture Centre adventure playground which could be under threat if Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council cut funding for play facilities**

■ **ANGRY RESIDENTS: Protesters gather outside the Kensington and Chelsea Council offices before last week's meeting**

Santa's early visit

■ **FATHER Christmas, pictured with Jason Window and Sheena Ait Chikhoune, chairman and vice-chairman of the Business Forum, paid an early visit to Kensington when traders joined forces for an evening of festive fun.**

Full report and photos on page 6

INSIDE THE CITY'S BRIGHT NEW WEEKLY

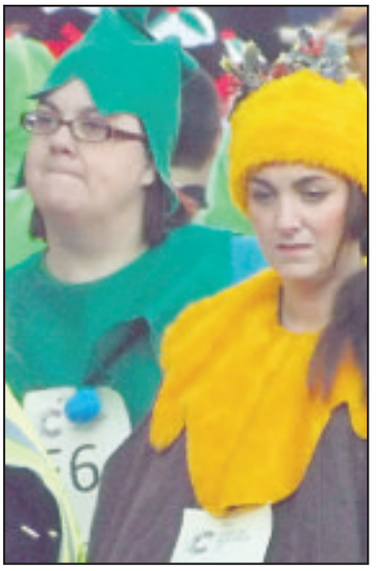
Borough kids brighten up building site

- page 4

Lionel's back in town

- see page 19

In next week's London Weekly News - the capital's bright new community newspaper



London's wackiest festive event - The Great Christmas Pudding Race in Covent Garden - full pictorial coverage

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Apprenticeship Scheme

WESTMINSTER City Council is committed to helping young people into employment and is very proud of the apprentices on its Apprenticeship Scheme. It has been a huge success with positive feedback from both apprentices and line managers.

Apprenticeships are an excellent way of gaining qualifications, work based skills and experience with all apprentices provided with relevant workplace placements and training from a recognised OFSTED provider.

The council's current apprenticeship programme is delivered in partnership with the London Apprenticeship Company with opportunities at the council advertised on their website.

Kensington & Chelsea

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LWN NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER & PIMLICO editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

AN artist's impression of how the garden bridge will look

A vision of green in the city centre

GREEN-fingered Westminster residents will be sought to help with the gardening after work is expected to start on building London's Garden Bridge next year.

The spectacular scheme won planning permission from Westminster Council last week and now only The Mayor's rubber stamp is needed for the £175 million project to go ahead.

The Mayor, Boris Johnson, is known to be a fan of the "floating paradise garden", which was first suggested by the actress Joanna Lumley.

● By LWN reporter **GEOFF BAKER**
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

The botanical bridge will stretch between Temple Station and the South Bank. Westminster Council was told that the bridge would create 270 jobs and would cause other economic benefits by providing better access to Temple, one of the main legal centres.

The bridge is designed by Thomas Heatherwick, who created the cauldron for the opening ceremony of London's Olympics. It will feature plants, trees, woodland and "meandering walkways'"– and Westminster gardeners will be asked to help keep Joanna Lumley's vision looking absolutely fabulous.

The Garden Bridge Trust, which is behind the ambitious plan, has announced that it wants volunteer gardeners to get involved.

"We are keen to involve the local community right across the boroughs of Westminster and Lambeth. Volunteers will work side-by-side with professional horticultural experts to ensure the upkeep and maintenance of the extensive gardens,' said the Trust.

'This isn't just a bridge – with 6,000 square metres of space, similar in size to a football pitch, planted with trees, flowering shrubs, herbaceous plants and grasses, the Garden Bridge will provide an elevated urban park and promenade in the heart of London. It will be an asset for the local community, a peaceful place to stroll, enjoy the fantastic views and unwind."

Most of the money for the bridge has already been found. The Mayor's office has offered £30 million through Transport for London, the Treasury is expected to provide another £30 million and the Garden Bridge Trust has had £110 million pledged by private donors. The Trust is to invite donations from the public next year to make up the remaining £5 million needed.

ORIGINAL IDEA: Actress Joanna Lumley

Fireworks tickets changing hands on the black market

FROM page 1

Velda Bloomfield from Suffolk posted on the GLA fireworks tickets site: "This is ridiculous, it's 12.08 and there's no tickets."

Another ticket hunter, Nese Desnoyer, complained on the site that touts are raiding for tickets so quickly that the public has not got a chance. She posted; "The black market guys are so fast that by the time I wrote in my details sharp at noon and clicked, it said 'sorry we have sold out while you were entering your details'. That's not fair."

The Mayor's office is telling those who do not get a ticket to stay away and to make do with watching the world-acclaimed, 20-minute display on television instead.

A spokesman said: "For those unable to get a ticket, the best way of guaranteeing a good view of the display is by watching it on television at home. The display will be aired live on BBC1. People without tickets will not be able to get into the viewing areas and the display is not being screened in Trafalgar Square or Parliament Square."

More than 4,000 officers from the Metropolitan Police will be on duty on New Year's Eve as crowds in the centre of the capital are expected to be enormous. If the trend of recent years continues, those attempting to see the fireworks – with tickets or without - could approach one million. When the event began in 2003, 100,000 watched the display. In 2012 the crowd rose to 250,000 and last year, despite pouring rain, the number doubled to 500,000.

The Mayor's office says the ticketing system and 100,000 audience limit has been introduced for safety reasons.

"Ticketing has been introduced to help manage crowd numbers; 100,000 spectators can be comfortably accommodated, but last year more than 500,000 people travelled into central London. Following consultation with the emergency services and other authorities it was agreed that a ticketing system was the best way to endure that London's New Year's Eve fireworks will continue to be safe and enjoyable," said a spokesman.

However, the authorities may have under-estimated the rapidly-growing and huge demand to see the fireworks. A study of comments left on the GLA official fireworks site reveals that not only are Londoners and people from all over the UK desperately trying to get tickets, but also people from Brazil, Holland, Argentina, Italy, Germany and Canada are clamouring to come.

Already a black market in tickets is thriving, with reports of up to £600 asked for a pair at online tickets sites. And despite grave warnings by the Mayor's office on the ticket site about breaching terms and conditions by re-selling tickets, cheeky ticket-holders are already posting on the site offers to sell tickets at ten times face value.

Once the last remaining tickets are sold next week (December 15th) the black market price is expected to rocket.

The Mayor's office says the £10 entry fee is to cover the cost of running the ticketing scheme.

A spokesman said: "No profit is being made and every penny of the fee is being used to cover the costs associated with the scheme, including printing, distribution, on the ground ticket checks and extra infrastructure including additional fencing and stewards."

To apply for tickets before the last day on Monday go to www.london.gov.uk/nye

Green light for the garden bridge

WESTMINSTER City Council granted planning permission for the unique and iconic Garden Bridge across the River Thames on Tuesday of last week.

The bridge, designed by Thomas Heatherwick, now has planning permission from Westminster City Council and from Lambeth Council, and will go before the Mayor of London to be rubber stamped.

Cllr Robert Davis, deputy leader of Westminster City Council, chaired the planning committee meeting. He said: "This is something that is iconic and absolutely unique, and will be recognised right across the world.

"I understand the concerns about potential loss of views, but there is no doubting that this bridge will bring substantial and significant benefits to London."

Although the bridge has already been compared to New York's world-renowned High Line, there were a number of factors that the committee took into account including:

- **Significant public benefits**
- **Iconic design**
- **Job creation – approximately 270 positions**
- **Increased connectivity, including better access for disabled people and children**
- **Provision of a brand new large open space in central London**
- **Economic benefits to the Temple area from an increase in pedestrians**
- **Support from English Heritage, The Mayor of London, Transport for London, Somerset House and Kew Gardens.**

The bridge will measure 366m across the River Thames (The river is 250m-wide at that point), and be up to 30m wide. Its maximum height above the river will be 14.3m.

Up to 7 million visitors are expected per year, including a predicted 5,000 people an hour in peak times on Saturdays.

Out of 292 replies to the planning consultation, 279 letters were in support of the Garden Bridge which will include 270 new trees of 45 different species.

The start date is expected to be December 2015/January 2016.

LWN NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER AND PIMLICO editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Westminster florist keeps her 'tache growing strong

GIRL ABOUT TOWN: Kate Abbott is keeping her 'tache until Christmas to raise more money for cardiac care

WESTMINSTER florist Kate Abbott is to keep on sporting her Movember moustache due to the response around the capital to her eye-grabbing upper-lip.

Kate has been drawing stares all over London by going out wearing the 'tache she 'grew' to raise funds for cardiac care after surgeons saved her father's life on the operating table.

She has sported her moustache in her shop, on the Tube, in restaurants, out shopping and even when playing in her women's soccer team. Now, due to the response to her hairy stunt which has already raised £2,440 for heart research, she is to keep her Pancho Villa look until Christmas.

"I look ridiculous in this moustache and I have had some very odd looks from people who have been shocked at the sight of me when they come in for flowers," said Kate, of St John's Wood.

"But I'm going to keep on going for a bit because of the reaction from very generous people – a complete stranger came up to me in a restaurant in Covent Garden at the weekend and gave me £60 – and because I want to raise as much money as I can to fund bursaries for young doctors and nurses sharing new ideas for cardiac care.

● By LWN reporter **GEOFF BAKER**
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

"My father almost died during a routine heart operation earlier this year. The operation went horribly wrong and the only reason that he didn't die was because of the cardiac and critical care team who refused to give up and who gave him his life back.

"Many daughters are not as lucky as me and so if I can help fund the very special heart specialists, I don't mind looking weird about town for a while longer."

To donate for Kate – www.justgiving.com/Kate-Rose-Abbott1

We built this city on ... artist-inspired souvenirs

WESTMINSTER designers and artists are starting a 'souvenir revolution' aimed at giving visitors to London something better than tacky toys and garish gifts to take home.

They have launched a new pop-up store for tourists in Carnaby Street for Christmas with a mission to improve the souvenir market beyond I Love London mugs, Union Jack nail nippers, Beefeater fridge magnets and toy red buses.

"As London is now officially the most-visited city on the planet and is home to one of the world's most creative communities, we thought that it was high time that our souvenirs got an artist-designed makeover," said Alice Mayor, founder of the We Built This City artists' movement.

"I got the idea after walking past a standard fare souvenir store and realised that London could do so much better.

"We are aiming to revolutionise souvenirs for tourists by providing artist-inspired gifts that reflect the true creativity of London, giving them a collection which is curated for discerning international visitors.'"

The Carnaby Street store has launched with a collection which includes London postcards designed by Sir Peter Blake, city skyline ceramics by Cecily Vessey, Gherkin cushions by Charles Mullen, London Willow-pattern teacups, handmade Baker Street soaps and scented candles in ceramic holders printed with images from Regents Park.

"Our collection offers everyone the chance to take home a unique piece of London design," said Alice.

"Our mission is to help on a number of levels: shoppers can finally discover stylish and lasting souvenirs and creatives get to new discover new audiences, which in turn will drive revenues and help sustain businesses in the capital. Prices range from £3 for a home-made card to £200 for artwork."

The basement at We Built This City is also operating as a workshop for events including London gin masterclasses and Christmas wreath-making. The pop-up store will remain at 11-12 Carnaby Street until January 10th. Further information at www.webuilt-thiscity.com

THE POP-UP SHOP: In Carnaby Street

Parent power delays cut in funding for play services

A PROTEST by angry Kensington residents against council plans to stop subsidies for after-school childcare has forced councillors to suspend the plan which parents say could cost the average family at least an extra £1,755 a year.

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Parents say the plan is a "privatisation of childcare" which could result in children dangerously hanging around on pavements outside schools as they wait for parents to collect them after work.

The council says 'these plans would yield the greatest level of savings of over £1.3 million in the first three years.'

But angry parents argue that there would be money in the budget for childcare if the council dropped its plan to bail out the loss-making Opera Holland Park with a £5 million payment.

A petition signed by 1,800 parents in the borough calls on the council to drop the strategy. Council documents reveal that under the new system childcare fees are expected to rise by between 15 per cent to 65 per cent.

"This plan is really upsetting for us, it has shaken many families in the community,' said Mrs Hallak, spokesperson for the protesting parents who have accused the council of 'dummie tactics."

Mrs Hallack added: "The council has a quarter of a billion pounds in its reserves, which off the interest alone could fund the play service. It is giving away £5 million to the opera so it can afford to maintain the childcare service as it is and as it has been for 40 years. The council should not play with children's safety.

Play centres closing

"Working parents rely on this service, knowing that our children can stay safe in play centres after school until parents can collect them after work.

"The cost of after-school childcare now is £4 per day per child. But we understand that this will rise to £7 a day per child. For an average family of three children that's an extra £45 per week, or £1,755 a year – and that doesn't include the additional cost of school holiday care, which could rise to £28 per day per child.

"We have also been informed that the new childcare service could mean play centres closing half an hour earlier than now, shutting at 5.30 each day.

"For working parents, this plan is ludicrous. A great many of them will not be able to afford the new fees and I dread to think what is going to happen, it risks going back to the old days of children hanging around on pavements outside schools, waiting to be collected.

"And what does it mean for parents who cannot get away from work to collect their children earlier – will they have to give up their jobs in order to pick up their children before the centres shut?"

The council's current play service runs breakfast, afterschool and holiday play centres in schools across the borough for children aged 5-13. The council argues that due to the fall in Government funding it can no longer afford to subsidise the service.

A council spokesman said: "Primary schools would be given transitional funding so that this service would remain affordable, ensuring that any fee increases would be gradual and in line with the introduction of the new childcare benefit. From September next year, working families will be able to access the new tax-free childcare scheme allowing them to recover 20% of their childcare costs. Families on low incomes would continue to be supported.'

Before the protest, Councillor Elizabeth Campbell, the Royal Borough's Cabinet member for Family and Children's Service, said: "Faced with large reductions in Government funding we can no longer afford to subsidise childcare for working parents, especially when most will be receiving the new childcare benefit next year.

"We firmly believe that primary schools and social enterprises have the expertise needed to build upon our existing play service so that it remains one of the best in the capital.'

But furious parents are not convinced and further protests are promised. Details will be announced on Twitter @sadahallak

■ **POPULAR: The Venture Centre adventure playground which could be under threat if Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council cut funding for play facilities**

AROUND THE ROYAL BOROUGH

Council win battle over size of basements

KENSINGTON and Chelsea Borough Council has won its battle to limit the scale of basement development in the Royal Borough.

In its report just published, the Government's Planning Inspector declares the council's proposals for tougher policies to be sound. Basements will still be permitted but strict guidelines will now set limits on their scale.

Highlights include a reduction in the maximum extent basements can extend under the garden, from 85 per cent to 50 per cent, with that 50 per cent being a single area of space; a restriction to a single storey in most cases (with exceptions for large sites); an outright ban on basement developments under listed buildings and a requirement for Construction Traffic Management Plans to be submitted alongside planning applications to help protect residents from the disturbance caused by these developments.

Commenting on the Planning Inspector's announcement, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Cllr Tim Coleridge, said: "Basements have been the single greatest planning concern our residents have expressed to us in living memory. Many have experienced years of misery from noise, vibration, dust and construction traffic.

"Two years ago we started drafting a policy to try and strike the right balance between addressing our residents' concerns and the genuine need for people to expand their homes.

"It hasn't been easy and basement developers have aggressively opposed us every step of the way. We are delighted that the Inspector agrees that we have got it right while at the same time praising us for our extensive public consultation.

"This ruling is a victory not only for the council but also our residents who have been overwhelmingly supportive of what we have been trying to do."

The new guidelines will formally be adopted on January 21 at the next full council meeting.

More nurses needed

NURSES and care workers are being sought to look after Chelsea Pensioners.

The Royal Chelsea Hospital's care home with nursing, The Margaret Thatcher Infirmary, is looking to recruit care assistants, senior care assistants in domiciliary care, registered nurses and night duty senior staff nurses.

An open day for prospective candidates to meet the team will be held at the infirmary on December 9th, with two informal sessions at 10 am-12 pm and 2pm-4pm.

To find out more, email margargaretthatcher-infirmary@chelsea-pensioners.org.uk

Borrow e-book reader

KENSINGTON and Chelsea Borough Council is reminding residents planning on treating themselves or a loved one to an e-book reader, tablet or iPad this Christmas to check out its huge range of e-book titles.

These can be borrowed for free from the Royal Borough's Library Service.

Some of the titles currently available include: *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel *The Hunger Games* trilogy by Suzanne Collins and *A Game of Thrones* by George R. R. Martin. To access online services you need to be a member of your local library - www.rbkc.gov.uk/libraries

KPH correction

A CORRECTION to last week's story on the threatened closure of Ladbroke Grove's The KPH – Mr Vince Power is the pub's manager, not the landlord as reported, and the lease-holder is Mr Patrick Burke. The Burke family has leased The KPH for some 30 years. We apologise for the error.

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SIMONE Tolchia and Georiaha Tahase from La Piccola Deli get into the festive mood during Stratford Road village shops party

SANTA with his reindeer outside Bodo Schloss

Santa and his reindeers bring some festive fun to Kensington

ELINOR Pitt, Paulina Klamczynska and Richard Woodeson- Morton from Kensington Design opened their doors to celebrate Stratford Road village shops party

DAVID Walsh, vicar of St Philip's Church and Liz Christie hand out sweets to children on Stratford Road

FESTIVE fun came to Kensington when businesses joined forces to host a Christmas Extravaganza aimed at boosting the area's appeal to shoppers.

Residents were treated to food, drink and entertainment by businesses, during an evening of events along the High Street and in surrounding villages.

The sounds and smells of Christmas were brought to Stratford Road for the annual Stratford Road village shops party, Thackeray Street and parts of Holland Street as businesses welcomed residents to the evening of festive cheer.

Meanwhile on Kensington High Street Santa brought three real reindeers to Bodo Schloss while chestnut selling and a Christmas Market was held at WholeFoods.

The events were all attended by Councillor Maighread Condon-Simmonds, Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

The evening was organised by retailers and businesses of Kensington High Street and nearby villages with the aim of enticing shoppers to make an early start on their seasonal shopping.

Jason Window, chairman of Kensington High Street Business Forum, said: "It's been really good for us to see what's on the High Street and to make things better and to improve the image of our street.

"We are quite far out from the city centre so we are trying to become to be of those destinations people want to come to.

"But it's more than just the High Street, it's also about the neighbouring villages. It's a partnership where everybody is working together and we are really stretching ourselves out to ensure the neighbouring villages are involved as well."

This year also saw the return of the Christmas lights along the high street after businesses in the area donated £17,000.

Mr Window said: "Last year there were no Christmas lights, so when I became chairman in March, the first thing on the agenda was getting lights for the high street. We raised £17,000 from the businesses.

"So it was great to have a meet and greet with the mayor because it's the first year of our sponsoring of the lights. It's never happened like this before."

ALEX Motson from The Devonshire Arms enjoys a warming mulled wine on Stratford Road

ANDREA Palota, Andreia Stefan and Katrina Simoncicora from Fait Maison

Advertising Feature

Champagne flows at Beauchamp Place for festive celebration

A select group of stores opened on Beauchamp Place for the first inaugural evening of Art, Fashion and Fine Jewellery in the lead up to Christmas and formed 'The Beauchamp Place Collective.'

Fashion Designer Caroline Charles, Gladwell & Patterson , The Map House and Amrapali opened their doors for exclusive events for their private clients.

The champagne flowed and guests were treated to a red carpet walkway with each store offering something different. Caroline Charles showed their latest Autumn/Winter collection on models, Amrapali provided authentic live music with stunning jewels, Gladwell & Patterson were celebrating 50 years with a private view of their Christmas Collection and The Map House Cocktails and Cartography.

The evening was a roaring success with guests requesting it happens again next year !

■ HARRODS buyer Sue Shields

■ IQBAL Lilani, Muna Lilani and Zeby Khan

■ ANNA Groot, Caroline Charles and Cynthia Maceda

■ CHRISTOPHER Celkirk, Brigitte Sharples, Simon Smith and Lina Smith

Westminster Chapel offers a warm welcome

REGULAR worshippers at Westminster Chapel, an evangelical church in central London, established in 1840, ARE looking forward to a busy Christmas programme.

The Chapel is situated in Buckingham Gate, just off Victoria Street and close to Buckingham Palace. It is at the point where Petty France meets Buckingham Gate, and is on the corner of Buckingham Gate and Castle Lane.

Their busy Christmas programme starts on Sunday (December 14th) with **Carols by Candlelight**, followed by mince pies and mulled wine, starting at 5.30 pm.

Other services over the festive period include a **Christmas Family Celebration** on Sunday, December 21st, starting at 11 am, to be followed by a Christmas lunch. This service includes a Nativity and carols for all the family to enjoy. No booking is necessary and lunch will cost just £3 for adults and £1 for children.

The traditional **Christmas Day Service** starts at 11 am and will include carols and Bible readings.

The Chapel is keen to welcome new members to the congregation who can be assured of a warm and friendly welcome.

It was a time of hope in May of 1841, as 22 Christians sat in the beautiful, newly-built chapel on Buckingham Gate – "full of faith in God for how he would move in that downtrodden and degraded area".

With Westminster Chapel's first minister, the Rev Samuel Martin, at the helm, the church began to make waves in the neighbourhood. Alms houses and schools were built, orphans were cared for and work schemes were organised for unemployed men.

The Rev Martin's gospel-preaching and Biblical authority made Westminster Chapel stand out as a light of hope in what was then one of London's poorest slums – rife with prostitution, squalor and drug addiction. Even influential leaders of that time like Lord Shaftesbury and Dean Stanley of Westminster Abbey began to hear of the Chapel's impact in the area.

■ THE beautiful interior of Westminster Chapel, first built in 1841 and rebuilt in 1860 to accommodate 2,000 seats, such was the popularity of the place of worship

By 1860, the original building was unable to accommodate a rapidly-burgeoning membership so a new, 2,000-seater building was designed, built and opened in 1865 – the building in which the worshippers still meet in today.

Throughout the years the Chapel has always cared for the less fortunate in society and that ethos continues to this present day with the running of a food bank which provides three days' worth of nutritionally balanced food for the residents of the City of Westminster through a voucher scheme.

The church has been led by several notable pastors, including Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1939–68) and R. T. Kendall (1977–2002). The current pastor is Greg Haslam.

The Westminster Foodbank is based at Westminster Chapel and is run mostly by volunteers from our congregation. It's open Mondays from 2-4pm & Thursdays 11am-1pm. At the moment, we are taking Christmas donations between 9-5pm on a weekday. We need: tinned ham/turkey/veg, mince pies, chocolates, Christmas cake/pudding, crackers, stuffing, crisps, gravy and biscuits - all for Christmas hampers.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER, 11AM

Followed by Christmas lunch. This service includes a nativity and carols for all the family to enjoy. Lunch will be £3 for adults, £1 for children - book on our website.

CAROL SERVICE BY CANDLELIGHT

SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 5.30PM

Followed by mince pies & mulled wine. Free entry no booking necessary.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS DAY

THURSDAY 25th DECEMBER, 11AM

Carols. Bible readings and a short message.

Westminster Chapel, Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6BS
Tube: Nearest stations are Victoria or St James's Park.
Car: Free parking on surrounding streets on evenings and Sundays.
Bus: 11, 24, 148 & 211 all have stops on nearby Victoria Street.
westminsterchapel.org.uk | twitter.com/thechapellondon

LWN NEWS FROM KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Kids' colourful designs brighten up construction site

CONSTRUCTION contractor Mace held an art competition for local schools, community and youth groups to produce designs for display on the hoarding around the site of 112 new homes being built next to the Silchester Estate for Peabody, in partnership with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Councillor Judith Blakeman unveiled the artworks to an audience of extremely excited four-year-old pupils, art students, teachers and members of the community.

She commented: "I was delighted to unveil these fantastic pieces of work gracing the hoardings at the Silchester development. This project has actively engaged young and old to showcase their creativity and pride in their local area."

Children from St. Anne's Nursery School near the site painted pictures of cranes following a visit from Irena, one of the only female tower crane operators in the UK, who works at the site.

Virginia Chattam, interim headteacher at the school said: "Today was a very special occasion and it's fantastic that the development is involving and enthusing the local community. As the oldest nursery school in London, we're proud to play our part in capturing the exciting changes taking place in our neighbourhood."

Members of the Children's Tenant Management Organisation spent a creative day at the Henry Dickens Court community centre producing a graffiti-style construction site scene designed by Kenza Kharchaf with input from local art student James Mercer.

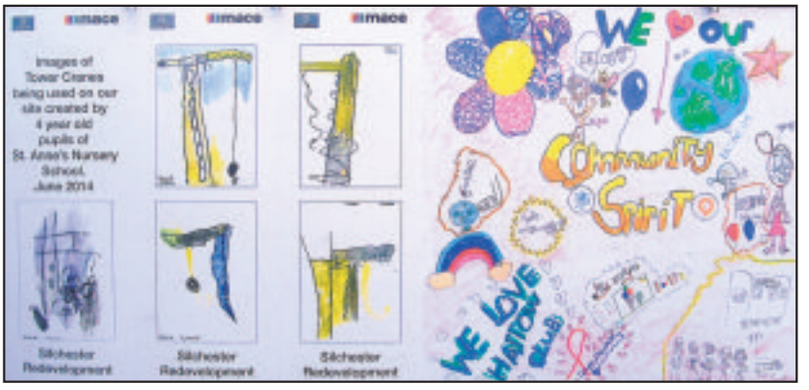
A feature in the piece is 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' inspired by Irena.

Talented students from the Latimer AP Academy screen printed a piece called: 'The Vibrant Energy Of Our Community' and Tasneem, a young artist from The Harrow Club, produced 'Why I Love My Youth Club' with a little advice from V&A funded project community artist in residence, Constantine Gras.

Silchester development project director Tony Hughes said: "At Mace we are committed to supporting the neighbourhoods in which we work. I'm delighted that the Mace team and local community have been able to come together on this project and the school children have produced some fantastic work that has really brightened up the construction site."

DELIGHTED WITH THEIR WORK: Children from the nearby St Anne's Nursery School, who drew pictures of cranes (right), to decorate the hoarding are pictured with Councillor Judith Blakeman

THREE CHEERS FOR US: All those involved in the artwork on the hoardings raise a cheer for the unveiling


mace
mace
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Images of Tower Cranes being used on our site created by 4 year old pupils of St. Anne's Nursery School. June 2014
Silchester Redevelopment
Silchester Redevelopment
Silchester Redevelopment
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Ambassadors to welcome visitors to the borough

LOCAL residents from Kensington and Chelsea have formed a friendly and welcoming group of ambassadors to help out at various cultural and community events in the Royal Borough throughout the year.

Inspired by the Team London Ambassadors during the London Olympics, the K&C Ambassadors project hopes to create a pool of volunteers ready and willing to promote cultural activities and events so that everyone can make the most of what the borough has to offer.

The K&C Ambassadors are also part of a new initiative by the Royal Borough to increase the number of people volunteering by making it easier for those with busy or unpredictable schedules.

The project launched with a successful pilot over the October half-term with 50 ambassadors braving the weather and crowds of visitors to the Exhibition Road area providing a smile and guidance to the thousands of people wanting to spend time in the museums.

The diversity of the team ranges from 17-77 years and has 17 native languages.

New ambassadors are always welcome. Contact Hilary Harvey at kcambassadors@voluntarywork.org.uk if you would like to get involved.

The K&C Ambassadors will be at the Westway Christmas Festival on December 16th and 17th to help with setting up, stewarding and encouraging people to join in the Christmas fun at the family-friendly festival.

The Volunteer Centre Kensington & Chelsea is an independent charity in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. It is the central hub for volunteering in the local community.

For more information go to www.voluntarywork.org.uk or call 020 89603722.

Sunday Christmas markets

SHOPPERS are still able to get a taste of Christmas at the Portobello Sunday Christmas Market for the next two Sundays until December 23rd.

The Christmas Market will be open from 10am to 4pm along a stretch of Portobello Road between Lancaster Road and Cambridge Gardens.

Forty stalls will feature with a mix of old favourites and items new to the market complementing the Portobello Green and Acklam Village markets near the Westway. Shoppers can enjoy roasted chestnuts, a traditional hog roast and other tasty treats, Father Christmas will be coming along with a bag of goodies for children and there will be many unique gifts and everyday bargains to be had.

Live entertainment will also take place on each of the days in Portobello Square, Tavistock Road with Colville Primary School choir (1-1.30pm), Neelay Bailey (1.40-2.30pm) and Cats on Ladders (2.30-3.30pm) on December 16; and Adam Music (1.30-2pm) and Bad Fingers Bundy (2.30-3.30pm) on December 23,

visit dreams.co.uk or call 0800 652 5090

Dreams

Because your sleep matters

Christmas begins in the capital as the lights go on

The Lord Mayor of Westminster Cllr Audrey Lewis was joined by the Governing Mayor of Oslo Stian Berger Røsland and civic guests to turn on the Christmas lights in Trafalgar Square

A Norwegian spruce has been donated by the City of Oslo to the people of London every year since 1947 as a token of gratitude for Britain's support during the Second World War.

And the lighting of that Christmas tree, in Trafalgar Square, marks start of festive season in the capital.

This year the Christmas tree was lit up in a traditional ceremony hosted by the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Audrey Lewis last Thursday evening.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster was joined by the Governing Mayor of Oslo Stian Berger Røsland – who was invited to turn on the lights – Norwegian Ambassador Mona Jul, the British Ambassador to Norway Sarah Gillett, the Deputy Mayor of London Victoria Borwick and Norwegian singer and saxophonist Håkon Kornstad.

The ceremony also featured three schoolchildren reciting a poem written specially for the occasion by Liz Lochhead, the Scots Makar – or national poet of Scotland – who took inspiration from poems written by hundreds of schoolchildren across London in an annual project run by the Poetry Society.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, said: "The Trafalgar Square Christmas tree – a gift from the people of Oslo – has become an institution in its own right, and stands as a symbol of the close relationship that exists between our two countries.

"It is a privilege to host the ceremony where the famous Christmas tree lights are switched on. This tradition is cherished by thousands of Londoners and Christmas has now truly begun."

The Norwegian Spruce, which is over 21 metres tall, was cut down in a forest in Oslo last month. Each year the forestry division of Oslo City Council chooses the tree from several earmarked as potential Trafalgar Square candidates over the next 10 to 15 years.

When Norway was invaded by German forces in 1940, King Haakon VII escaped to Britain and set up a government-in-exile in London, enabling the nation to retain its sovereignty and providing a base for the Norwegian resistance movement.

The tree is decorated in traditional Norwegian style with 900 white LED lights, and will be lit for 24 hours a day until midnight on Twelfth Night (January 6th 2015), when it is destined to be recycled.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: "The arrival and lighting of the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree marks the countdown to Christmas in a much loved city tradition.

"We thank the City of Oslo for providing us with this magnificent spruce and look forward to welcoming thousands of people to the square to enjoy a series of festive events this winter."

In a burgeoning tradition of its own, the tree can be followed on Twitter @trafalgartree.

THE choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields sing at the ceremony after the lighting of the 21metre tall Christmas tree

THREE schoolchildren were invited to recite a poem written specially for the occasion by Liz Lochhead, the Scots Makar

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GREENWICH THEATRE LONDON

Letters to the Editor

Representing the true spirit of the Air Cadets

■ SIR -May I, through your columns, thank all those who attended the recent *Royal Air Force in Concert* performance at the Cadogan Hall, which celebrated the 50th Display Season of the world-renowned Royal Air Force aerobatic display team, the Red Arrows.

The evening was a great success and helped support the important work of the Royal Air Force Charitable Trust.

I would also like to thank Air Cadets from 291 (Westminster & Chelsea) Squadron, whose valuable participation on the night reflected both the spirit and dedication of the Air Cadet Organisation.

The RAF Charitable Trust is the youngest of the RAF's family of charities having been set up in 2005. Its mission is to promote the Royal Air Force, to support its people now and into the future and to encourage air-mindedness and the aviation-related education of youth. This gives us very wide scope to do great work to help former and serving members of the RAF as well as aviation-orientated youth organisations.

We very much look forward to returning to the Cadogan Hall in 2015 with a special concert commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Air Marshal Sir Kevin Leeson
KCB CBE FREng CEng FIET
Chairman, Royal Air Force Charitable Trus

Horrified by threat to Kensington Park Hotel

■ SIR - Really pleased to find, once again, a paper local to Kensington and Chelsea.

I was horrified to read, from your front page, December 4th, that yet another community attraction, the Kensington Park Hotel, was under threat from greedy developers, who want to make money by selling it off as luxury flats to foreign investors, who will never occupy the flats but keep them as investments and, as a sop to the shopping parade, create yet another estate agency.

So many pubs, shops, hotels and offices have been lost, recently, to the manic craze for residential values in Kensington and Chelsea that, one day, people coming to live here (as I did in 1961) will find that there is no life left here to come to:- just a huge area of posh properties and empty streets.

The council has a policy on public houses, and is on your, and on the residents'side, but is continually outplayed by big money, and by well-paid consultants, who deceive Planning Inspectors, at appeal, when the council refuses permission for change of use, by false economics, and by fake figures. I hope that that Inspectors will have by now learned that they have been deceived, and that the Council will win, in the case of the KPH.

Charles Hopkins,
30, Wallingford Avenue,
W10 6PX

Seek advice if you are caring for a loved one

■SIR - New Carers UK research has found that over two million of us will start providing care for older, sick or disabled loved ones every year and many will go without the vital advice and information they need.

With an ageing population and people living longer with disabilities, caring for a loved one is increasingly a reality for families. In fact, as our research found, 10.6 million people across the UK will take on a caring role over the next five years and £1.1 billion of Carer's Allowance goes unclaimed each year.

It's vital that anyone caring for a loved one seeks advice to ensure they are getting the services and support they are entitled to. Without help and assistance carers can find themselves facing financial hardship, health problems, emotional stress and relationship breakdown. They can be pushed to breaking point. This has serious consequences for individuals, families, employers and the UK economy as a whole.

With new rights in the Care Act coming into effect next year, carers locally need to be informed about how it will impact them.

Heléna Herklots, Chief Executive, Carers UK

Oppose the bedroom tax

■SIR - Congratulationss on the re-appearance under its new ownership of the Westminster & Pimlico News.

Hopefully, the new Westminster & Pimlico will have rather more about the doings of Westminster than its predecessor.

Meanwhile, the first letters page that I came across in the new paper carried what appears to be part of a concerted campaign against the proposed mansion tax.

There was even mention of the matter being put to Sir Malcolm Rifkind and to the amazement of no-one at all, he was opposed to it (now there's a surprise).

It is to be hoped that the objectors to the proposed tax have been/will be putting as much time and energy into opposing the Coalition's Bedroom tax. Who knows, your correspondents may even persuade Sir Malcolm round to objecting to it?

H. Bourne,
Ruskin House , Erasmus Street,
London SW1P 4HU

Sign of the times ...

■ **SIR - I missed you so much! Welcome back! I was drinking a coffee at the cafe in Kensington Gardens, just by Kensington Palace.**

A workman was repainting the white sign, with the words: 'Look Both Ways', on the ground and painting a straight line underneath it.

I turned to him and asked him, "What would the referee say?"

With the best wishes for the re-launch!

Robert D Dangoor
Flat 4, 39 Courtfield Road
London, SW7 4DB

■ **OUTSTANDING FOOTBALL COACH: Award winner Armand Kavaja pictured with the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Audrey Lewis, and Winter Olympian Amy Williams MBE**

Celebrating Westminster's 'unsung' sporting heroes

SPORTING heroes in Westminster were recognised at an awards ceremony held at Lord's Cricket Ground.

Westminster City Council's Active Westminster Awards recognise individuals and groups who have made an outstanding contribution to their community through sport and physical activity.

This year the awards were presented by two Olympians who have reached the top of their sport.

Long jumper Jade Johnson, who has won silver medals at the European Championships and Commonwealth Games, presented the awards alongside Amy Williams MBE, who became the first individual British gold medallist at the Winter Olympics for 30 years when she won the Skeleton in 2010. She has moved into broadcasting since announcing her retirement in 2012.

Rising star Zoe Smith received the Champion of the Future award, an accolade previously won by Commonwealth Games silver medallist Tin-Tin Ho.

Swimmer Zoe is a star of Chelsea and Westminster Swimming Club and was selected for the prestigious 2014 England Talent Development Programme in August this year.

The fifth annual ActiveWestminster Awards also recognised people who had made a real difference to their communities by nurturing young talent and devoting their lives to sport.

Football coach Armand Kavaja won the Outstanding Contribution award for his work with the London Tigers, a community team in north Westminster where he began as a youth volunteer.

This year he qualified with a UEFA A licence – the top qualification in football coaching – and made history by steering the London Tigers to the second round of qualifying for the FA Cup.

Jade Johnson, who presented the awards, said: "I believe community awards such as ActiveWestminster are so important because, when you recognise the achievements of young people, coaches, and volunteers, it is like adding enormous amounts of fuel to a brightly burning fire, to help keep it alight for a long while after.

"Acknowledgement and being recognised for our achievements are such a valuable part of continued participation, success and ongoing enthusiasm, in life as well as sport."

Cllr Steve Summers, Westminster City Council cabinet member for Sports and Leisure, said: "My role lets me see first-hand the power of sport and physical activity in transforming lives, bringing communities together and unleashing people's potential.

"Every year these awards give us the chance to recognise and pay tribute to the people and organisations that help make that happen, and to celebrate outstanding local talent.

"I want to encourage everyone in Westminster – whatever their age – to make the most of the facilities on offer and enjoy the wide range of benefits sport and physical activity have to offer."

■ **RISING STAR: Zoe Smith receuves her award from long jumper Jade Johnson**

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See page 7

FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

London WEEKLY News

ISSUE 3 PICK UP A FREE COPY Thursday, December 11th 2014

Milestone for charity with royal seal

LWN ROYAL SPECIAL

NEW CAMPAIGN TO MARK NSPCC 120th ANNIVERSARY

By Geoff Baker

HER Majesty The Queen's own children's charity is marking the 120th anniversary of its royal charter with a drive to form a child protection army of Londoners.

The NSPCC – of which The Queen is the 'unknown' patron – has launched a call-out for hundreds of Londoners to enlist for the war against child abuse.

The campaign for volunteers comes as the society prepares to commemorate in 2015 120 years of royal patronage – which many people do not know that it has.

In 1883 Liverpool businessman Thomas Agnew established the Liverpool Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Other towns and cities followed Liverpool's example and the London SPCC was established in 1884. In 1889 the London SPCC was re-named the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

The NSPCC was granted its Royal Charter in 1895, when Queen Victoria became its first royal patron, but the society did not change its name to the RSPCC – in order to avoid confusion with the by then-well established Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Now, as concerns for the safety of children grow across the capital, The Queen's child society has launched an enlistment campaign for more volunteers, who will be trained to help children in a variety of ways:

ChildLine schools volunteer – visiting primary schools twice a month giving assemblies and classroom workshops for 9 to 11-year-olds on understanding abuse and how to seek help.

Switchboard volunteer – manning the 24-hour ChildLine helpline for four hours a week.

Volunteer counsellor – trained to offer comfort, support and advice to the 300,000 children who call ChildLine each year for help.

Admin volunteer – giving three hours a week to help behind the scenes, collating feedback and processing case notes.

Event volunteer – giving time at NSPCC fundraising events like cheerleading, providing refreshments and official photography at sponsored marathons and fun runs.

Internships – helping to run NSPCC offices across London.

'The more people who join us, the more we can help children,' said a NSPCC spokesman. 'Big or small there's something everyone can do to make things better for children. We can all play a part in the fight for every childhood.'

This week the Countess of Wessex, President of the NSPCC, will reinforce the royal patronage when she attends the ChildLine Carols By Candlelight concert at Christ Church, Spitalfields, on Wednesday (December 10).

The concert coincides with the society's Bobble Hat Day, when Londoners are being asked to raise funds for the NSPCC by sponsored-wearing of their favourite festive hat.

This year's ChildLine Christmas appeal, Call For Help, aims to raise more than £900,000 to recruit 2,000 counsellors, each of whom costs around £1,600 to train.

Full details of how to fund raise on Bobble Hat Day and volunteering opportunities are on the official website www.nspcc.org.uk

■ ALWAYS A FAVOURITE WITH CHILDREN: Sophie Countess of Wessex will be attending Childline's Carols By Candlight at Christ Church, Spitalfields. *Photo by Andrew Parsons/REX*

Inside London's new weekly

The Duke of Gloucester unveils memorial to the Korean War

Is Angelina house hunting in Marylebone?

ROYAL LONDON

Korean veterans honour the fallen

Memorial to honour those who

WE WILL NEVER FORGET THEM: Korean War veterans gather to honour their fallen colleagues

FITTING MEMORIAL: the statue of a British soldier

Words: PHILIP EVANS
Photos: RICHARD AUSTIN

OLD soldiers from all over the world gathered in central London to honour the fallen of the "forgotten war".

Hundreds of them gathered at the Victoria Embankment Gardens, near the Ministry of Defence, to witness the unveiling of a memorial to the Korean War - 61 years after the conflict which cost the lives of 1,106 British servicemen ceased.

The Korean War Memorial, a gift from the Republic of Korea to honour the British troops that served between 1950 and 1953, is in the form of a bronze statue of a British soldier by sculptor Philip Jackson.

Involved in the project were the British Korean Veterans' Association, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in London and the Korean Ministry of Patriots' and Veterans' Affairs, as well as the Lady R Foundation and the British Government.

More than 500 guests, including 320 veterans, watched HRH the Duke of Gloucester lead a ceremony of commemoration alongside Defence Secretary, the Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP, and the Republic of Korean's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Yun Byung-se.

Mr Fallon told the servvicemen, officials and military dignatories gathered at the memorial: "We must never allow the notion of a 'forgotten war' to take hold. Where Britain's armed forces put their lives on the line for their country, this must be commemorated, and in the right way.

"The Korean War was the first ever United Nations' action against aggression, and so has enormous significance.

CONTUNUED ON FACING PAGE

HRH The Duke of Gloucester was joined by the Republic of Korea's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Yun Byung-se, military dignitaries and veterans to lead a ceremony unveiling the new bronze statue

HAVING A LUGH: Korean War veterans share a joke after the ceremony with a serving RAF officer

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'Forging a truly profound friendship with Korea'

fought in 'The Forgotten War'

■ FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

"We will never forget the sacrifices made by our soldiers - losing their lives, sustaining injuries or becoming prisoners of war.

"I am therefore grateful to the Government of the Republic of Korea for contributing such an impressive memorial. It is fitting that, in the year we mark the anniversary of World War One, we also remember those British soldiers who were deployed over 30 years later to ensure the freedom of millions of people in Korea and beyond."

Around 820,000 British service personnel were deployed during the Korean war with more than 1,000 of them losing their lives. Most of the British dead are buried in the UN Memorial cemetery outside Busan in the Republic of Korea.

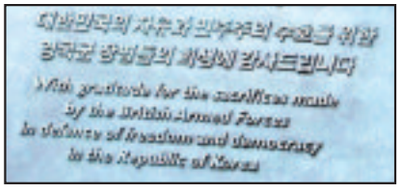
The ceremony in Victoria Embankment Gardens on Wednesday of last weekj was arranged by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in London. Members of the Embassy attended the unveiling, together with Mr Un Byung-se and representatives from the UK's Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Foreign Office Minister, the Rt Hon Hugo Swire MP said: "It is absolutely right that veterans of the Korean War now, finally, have a permanent memorial in our capital city, and I am proud to be able to honour their memory. Our diplomatic relations with the Korean peninsular go back oer 130 years. But it was through the experiences of this war that the UK and the Republic of Korea forged a truly profound friendship that still endures until this day.

"Fittingly, on the day on which we unveil the memorial, we are taking the relationship to a new level with the first ever ministerial UK-ROK Strategic Dialogue, hosted by the Foreign Secretary.

"As well as being an economic powerhouse in Asia, the Republic of Korea is an important partner for the UK on many key global issues, and we look forward to ever closer co-operation."

◆ The Korean War was the first UN action against aggression. The UN forces that fought the North Korean invasion were drawn from 21 countries. Britain provided the second largest military contribution after the United States.


With gratitude for the sacrifice made
by the British Armed Forces
in defence of freedom and democracy
in the Republic of Korea

■ THE duke admires the new statue as veterans look on

SHOWBIZ SPECIAL

Can Marylebone provide a pad big enough for Angelina's brood?

ANGELINA Jolie has got her work cut out. If whistle-blowing estate agents are to be believed (and there's a whopping leap of faith) the Oscar-winning actor, director, humanitarian and international pin-up is said to be house-hunting in Marylebone.

According to someone whom The Sunday Times coyly calls 'a local source', Dame Angelina (she was honoured in June for her phenomenal charity work) is looking to spend up to £20 million for a London home for herself and husband Brad Pitt.

But that's not going to be easy, because even if between them Mr & Mrs Pitt did earn what Forbes magazine claims to know to be £30,830,000 last year, housing them is not a matter of money, but space.

For Brad and Dame Angelina have six children and are somewhat distinguished in the movie world by being a close family. So that's seven bedrooms.

Reasonably allowing for the probability that if you are shelling out £20m one might not consider it extravagant, high-maintenance or demanding to want at least one guest room, that means that she is facing a house search for a property with at least eight bedrooms, and that's not easy to find in Marylebone.

There's a penthouse in The Chilterns development that's coming up for grabs at £25 million, a tad over the Pitts' alleged budget but with a cinema, sauna, gym and in-house chef, and the Chiltern Firehouse celebrity club next door, the two-floor property might have been of interest - were it not for the fact that it's only four bedrooms and Hollywood's first family probably don't want to have to do bunk-beds in the kids' rooms. Besides, why would the planet's most-famous couple want to go clubbing with celebrities?

MOVING TO MARYLEBONE? Angelina Jolie meets two Chelsea Pensioners at the film premiere of Unbroken at the end of November *Photo by David Fisher/REX*

If you leave no room other than the sofa for Oscar-winning grandpa Jon Voight to occasionally kip, Knight Frank has a seven-bed, mind-blowingly-fabulous Nash 'terrace' advertised at Hanover Terrace, Regent's Park that could fit them all in, for £21m. Or, to stay within budget, at £16.5m, yet another regal seven-bedder, smack in the middle of Hanover Terrace.

But the kids might want to have a friend stay over, so that eighth bedroom is so important – and not easy to find.

There was a nice big place going for £3.5m in Fitzroy Square, 'completely unmodernised' too. But that's just gone. There's a fantastic Art Deco town house in Harley Street, almost agoraphobia-making with nine bedrooms, for £6,950,000. Gone.

£50,000 extra could have bought the Pitts what agents advertise as a nine-bed Georgian home in Montagu Square, but the details reveal that the town house has been converted into seven self-contained apartments, so that's no use; Brad doesn't want to be having to use the entry-phone every time he wants to read the children a bedtime story.

But what, when their main family home is a chateau and award-winning vineyard in a village in the South of France, would be drawing the Pitts to Marylebone?

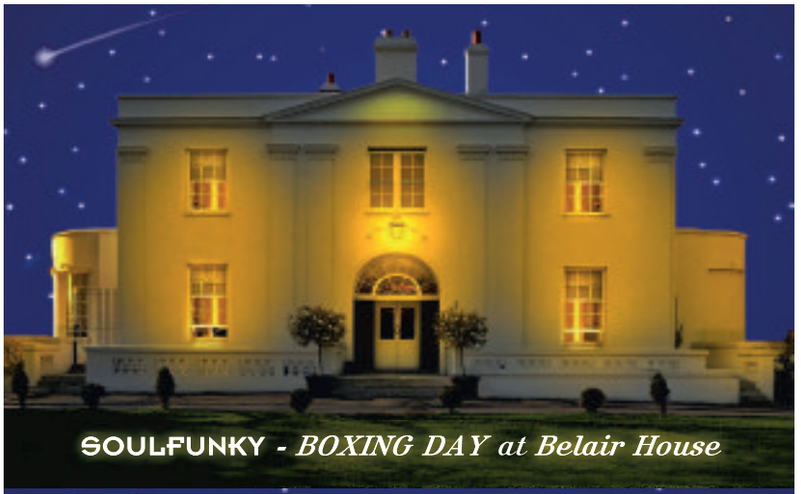
Is it the fun they could have freaking out visitors to Marlebone Road's Madam Tussauds, standing stone still next to their waxworks - and then jumping? As Madam T spent £150,000 and four months' work on each of the new Brad and Angelina mannekins, doubtless a mirror could not tell them from the real things.

Is it for the easy access [sort of] to all roads to deepest Surrey where the Pitt family likes to enjoy a day-out at their favourite paint-ball centre, doubtless playing it as pap-ball?

Or is it, as the estate agent told The Sunday Times, because 'Marylebone is now the coolest place on the planet'?

Yeah, that'd be it; Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are moving because they really need more cool….

Or is it, as we heard, for the apple tarte tartin at La Patisserie Des Reves, 'the pastry shop of dreams' in Marylebone High Street?



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Simpsons still waiting for William

AS the Planet Earth's favourite TV show, The Simpsons, celebrates its 25th birthday next week Homer is hoping that 2015 will see the success of a 10-year effort to bring Prince William to Springfield.

William and Kate are now top of The Simpsons' wish list. The show's producers have been trying to lure William since 2005, when they heard that as a child he was a big fan of the show.

First The Simpsons asked William to play himself in the show as 'Lisa's love interest'. In 2008 the producers tried again, this time inviting both William and Kate to record a read-through for an episode in which 'Kate and Lisa would be love rivals for William.'

Again the request was declined, so in 2011 the producers had Homer write an invitation for the royal couple to record an appearance during their visit to Los Angeles.

Homer wrote: 'We know your vacation time is precious, and you must be very tired from your busy schedule back home of jousting and fighting dragons. Visiting The Simpsons will provide an excellent opportunity for cultural exchange. In England at four o'clock, you have tea and scones. Whereas at four o'clock here, I have beer and beer. British people revere the Royal Family, whereas in America, we worship our own royal family: The Kardashians.'

TOP OF THE WISH LIST: Producers of the Simpsons say that all attempts to lure Prince Willam to read for them have been politely declined

He added: 'If you agree to visit our little show, I promise I will be amusing, my wife will be gracious, my daughters will be charming, and my son will be duct-taped to the boiler in the basement.'

Now The Simpsons producers say that they are extending an invitation again for William to appear in the show which has already attracted guest spots from famous Brits including Paul and Linda McCartney, Mick Jagger, J.K. Rowling, Sir Ian McKellen, Elizabeth Taylor, Tony Blair and Elton John.

'Prince William is on our most-wish list,' said a spokesman.

William would be in fine company. Although she did not read for the show, The Queen's character has appeared in seven episodes on The Simpsons, most famously in The Regina Monologues in season 15, when the entire Simpsons family went to London and things did not go well – Homer crashed her carriage with a Mini he rented, he accused her of being an imposter after concluding that HRH stood for 'Henrietta R. Hippo' and was consequently sent to the Tower for beheading. He received a last-minute pardon from The Queen under the condition that the Simpson family left England 'and take Madonna with you.'

The Simpsons' 25th anniversary is on December 17th.

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WINE & DINE

The food and drink page for West London

Cook well ahead for a ready steady Christmas

JAMES Ramden is the 29-year-old food blogger who ran trendy supper club The Secret Larder. Here he talks about taking the stress out of Christmas cooking . . .

FOOD writer and cook James Ramsden may have an extra special guest at Christmas this year, as his first baby with wife Rosie is due on December 20.

"We're going to play it by ear - if he happens to be early, then we might go up to my parents in Yorkshire for Christmas, but as things stand, we'll be here in London," he says, smiling broadly.

Ramsden is having quite a year. When we speak, he's caught between moving into a new a house (babies need a lot of space) and promoting his new cookbook, Do-Ahead Christmas.

In it, he unpacks his philosophy of preparing well in advance, to make the festive season - Christmas Day in particular - as stress-free as possible. And with a new baby on the way, Ramsden will definitely be practising what he preaches.

"Apart from the big-ticket items like the turkey, the majority can be done ahead," he says. "The sweet stuff and all the little bits and pieces that are not necessarily essential - they're the things to get done well in advance and chuck in the freezer.

"And there's a lot you can do on Christmas Eve and in the week running up to Christmas, so it means that you can actually enjoy Christmas Day.

"It sounds kind of trite and idealistic, but it's really not, and that's how I've operated forever . It means you sit down and have a nice time, as opposed to hiding in the kitchen - and everyone else can have a nice time because you're not in a flap!"

Ramsden, who inherited his Norwegian-American grandmother's cookery books, is a big fan of the freezer - with everything from mince pies, pfefferkuchen and stollen, to meatballs, clumps of spinach and emergency shepherd's pies stocking up his this winter.

He plunders his stash and warms things up as he goes: "We're obsessed with things being fresh, but actually, as long as your ingredients are good and you've cooked it well, it doesn't matter if it's been done ahead, you can reheat it."

JAMES Ramsden

Christmas lunch, he believes, is "one of those meals that people pile stress on when, actually, you're only doing a turkey and a few sides.

"People get their knickers in a twist about Christmas in a way they don't about other family meals, which is a shame, because it should just be about having a lovely time. I'd much rather have a so-so dinner and a relaxed host, as opposed to them being in a complete state and the food's wonderful," he adds.

"But, ideally, with the do-ahead method, you can have the best of both worlds!

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Boiled beef and carrots *serves 4*

[From Mark Hix British Seasonal Food, Quadrille Publishing, £14.99]

'This dish was a great favourite in London pubs, taverns and eating houses and many old London music hall songs refer to it. It is still one of the city's best dishes; we often serve it at our restaurants as it is actually very light.'

1kg salted silverside or brisket, soaked over-night in cold water
4 small onions, each about 80g-100g, peeled
12 young carrots, trimmed and scraped
10 black peppercorns
A few sprigs of thyme
2 cloves
2 blades of mace
1 bay leaf

For the horseradish dumplings
125g plain flour, sieved
1 tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
65g shredded beef suet
1 tbsp chopped flat-leaf parsley
1 tbsp freshly-grated horseradish

Drain the beef and rinse under cold water. Put it in a large pan with the vegetables and flavourings. Cover with water to about 5-6cm above the beef. Bring to the boil. Skim and simmer for about 30 minutes.

Remove the carrots and put to one side. Simmer for another 30 minutes, or until the onions are cooked. Remove them and put them with the carrots. Continue cooking the beef for an hour or so. When the beef is cooked, remove it from the pan and keep warm, reserving the cooking liquor.

Make the dumplings: mix all of the ingredients together with enough cold water to form a sticky dough. Flour your hands and roll into 12 little balls. Transfer some of the cooking liquor to another pan and poach the dumplings for 10 minutes. Remove the dumplings and discard the dumpling liquid.

Simmer the rest of the cooking liquor until reduced by half, or until it has a good strong flavour. Skim off any fat.

To serve, reheat the vegetables and dumplings in the reduced liquid. Slice the beef and arrange in a deep plate with the dumplings and vegetables and spoon over the liquid.

Kids take on the problem of cutting down on food waste

THREE hundred London schoolchildren were joined by Masterchef winner Thomasina Miers and Unilever Project Sunlight to plan how to tackle food waste and food poverty in this year's Team London Youth Summit.

Some 22 per cent of struggling parents go without food to feed their children, while 75 per cent of us regularly throw food away.

The children, aged eight to 17, heard from speakers including Miers and 15-year-old Grace Jones, who plans to set up a food bank in her local neighbourhood. They also donated over 70kg food to a local project to kick-start the initiative.

Grace said: "Spreading the word to other young people is very important to me because I believe that a lot of small acts make a big difference and we all have the power to change the world. For me it has been amazing to share my views with the world in the Unilever advert and at the Youth Ambassadors summit, I hope to inspire other young people to address food waste and help those in hunger, by making changes at home, at school and even in the wider community."

The Youth Summit is part of the Mayor's Team London Young Ambassadors Programme, which has seen 500 schools and over 25,000 young people lead projects in their local communities, from tackling bullying in schools to raising awareness of homelessness. The programme, run in partnership with Free The Children, has made a lasting positive impact on schools with over 90 per cent of teachers stating that the scheme has increased enthusiasm for learning and improved behaviour among students.

The programme is being supported by Unilever Project Sunlight and Spirit of 2012, enabling the Mayor's programme to be offered to every London state school by 2016, offering all young people the chance to participate in this movement for positive change.

Thomasina Miers, founder of Wahaca and a food waste activist, is a key supporter of the campaign. She said: "This is a wonderful chance for the young people of London to come together and work out how we're going to cut food waste and food poverty, which is such a huge problem and affects the lives of people every day. Their enthusiasm is infectious, and I fully support the Mayor's Team London initiative to get all London school children volunteering. As we can see today, they are raring to go and it's great to be part of such a meaningful yet fun day."

Last chance to WIN a superb lunch or dinner for two at either of Mark Hix's latest restaurants, Hixter Bankside or Hixter City.

Simply correctly answer the following question and email it to competitions@londonweeklynews.co.uk by Thursday, December 18th.

Q – WHAT IS A PESCETARIAN?

1. **Someone who only eats peas.**
2. **Someone who only eats pests.**
3. **A vegetarian who also eats fish.**

Normal competition rules apply. The winner will be notified by email after the closing date of December 18th 2014

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

Lionel Richie in London ...

Technology has made the world so small

LIONEL Richie loves being in the UK. He says he's seen our capital city change dramatically since he first came here with his band The Commodores around 1973; the architecture, mainly, the cultural diversity, the food and so on.

The biggest change, however, has been brought about by technology.

"I remember walking into a restaurant with a friend and before my first drink arrived, another friend called from Los Angeles and to say he hoped I enjoyed my meal. A photo of me in the restaurant was posted somewhere and he'd seen it. That was about eight years ago too, it's even worse now."

Nevertheless, it's not enough to stop Richie, who begins a UK tour in February, from enjoying himself in the country while he's here.

"It's really fun to go on tour now, because all of my friends show up. They're dotted all over the world. It's exhausting, I'll be doing promo in the day, a show at night and then seeing friends in the evening. I never want to miss anything. It actually motivates me to do another album, and to keep on touring, so I can keep up with the great friends I've made in the last century."

Richie's enthusiasm for seemingly everything he talks about is infectious. It could just be the caffeine and sleep deprivation, of course, but he seems more engaged in popular culture than many artists of his age and stature.

Richie, who has sold more than 100 million records, placing him among the top 50 best-selling artists of all time, is bringing his **All Night Long** tour to London next year. It's an unapologetically hit-packed show.

"You get these artists who don't want to play their biggest hits," he says. "Or they'll do a reworking of it, but I say, if you're lucky enough to have a song that people request over and over again, play that damned song."

■ **STILL DANCING ON THE CEILING? Lionel Richie brings his tour to London in March**

Performed a million times

He understands why someone might not want to play a song they've performed a million times before. Among the reasons, he says, might be that the lyrical content is unsuitable for an artist of a certain age to sing.

"**Brick House** might be the only one I might have a problem with," he says, referring to the line 'The clothes she wears, her sexy ways, make an old man wish for younger days.'

"We were saying it then to spoof old people, but now I am that old man. Every time we play that, the band point to me. 'Are you serious?' I say, but that bassline... How could we not play it?

"So yes, the versions we've been playing are going to be as close to the originals as possible. If a crowd come out to hear **Easy**, they're not going to get a new arrangement, with a harmonica solo and Willie Nelson coming on to sing it. They're going to get it down the barrel. **Three Times A Lady** too, **Dancing On The Ceiling**, you name it, we play it."

Richie's also just been announced as the Sunday afternoon performer at Glastonbury Festival 2015.

"I'm very excited that I will be making my UK festival debut. Glastonbury has a phenomenal history and the alumni of artists who have previously played is incredible, so I'm honoured to be joining that club."

Away from the live shows, Richie is currently planning his second **Tuskegee** album.

Named after the Alabama town he was born in 65 years ago, Richie abandoned, temporarily at least, the soul sound he's best known for to explore country music.

"I had wanted to make a covers record, so I thought Lionel does Gershwin? Lionel does Cole Porter? Lionel's American Songbook? I quickly said no to all of them and thought I'd do Lionel does country. It not only worked, but opened the floodgates, and now the artists I didn't duet with first time around are calling asking why, so we're lining them up for the second album."

He's just about to reveal a few names of collaborators when his manager, who has been leaning against the fireplace in the hotel room, standing guard throughout the interview, interjects.

"He won't let me tell you!" says Richie. "I'm terrible at secrets, that's why he stays here, so I don't just let all the cats out of the bags."

Richie is sceptical of U2's recent promotion in which their album **Songs Of Innocence** landed in the account of every iTunes user - "they spent three years making a record and gave it away?" he states, incredulously - and worries the artists following him won't be supported by the industry in the same way he was.

"How is everyone getting paid? Are they supposed to go back to working in the supermarket after they've had a No 1 record?" he asks.

"I bitch and moan about the state of things now - not for myself, but for the writers and the people coming up behind me. I want them to experience the same things I did. There are some very talented people out there but they're being marginalised."

As for a real retirement, he says he never will, or at least not while he can still get on stage and remember the lyrics to his songs without a "teleprompter the size of a cinema screen."

"And anyway, what would I retire from? I fly around the world, singing, getting paid for basically going on vacation. I've never worked a day in my life."

● **Lionel Richie tours the UK in February and March 2015. London dates at the O2 Arena are Sunday, March 1st and Tuesday March 31st. For more information, visit www.lionelrichie.com**

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TCG Co-op MM Premium	210-212 Earls Court Road	Kensington	SW5 9QB
Sainsbury's Store	158a Cromwell Road	South Kensington	SW7 4EJ
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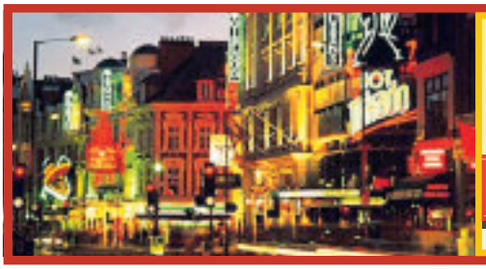
Sainsbury's Store	Ladbroke Grove	London	W10 5AA
Tesco Metro	224-226 Portobello Rd	Notting Hill	W11 1LJ
Tesco Metro	114-120 Notting Hill Gate	Notting Hill	W11 3QE
Tesco Super Store	West Cromwell Road	Kensington	W14 8PB

London Weekly News pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	Melbourne Avenue	West Ealing	W13 9BZ
Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	NW8 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
TCG Co-op City	104-105 Berwick Street	Soho	W1F 0QS
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
TCG Co-op MM Mainstream	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9ED
TCG Co-op City	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG

Westminister & Pimlico News pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	99 Wilton Road	Pimlico	SW1V 1DT
Tesco Metro	18-28 Warwick Way	Westminster	SW1V 1RX
Tesco Classic Metro	Dean Street	Westminster	W1D 3RS
Tesco Classic Metro	10-16 Goodge Street	Westminster	W1T 2QB
Tesco Metro	90-100 Edgware Road	Westminster	W2 2EA
TCG Co-op City	19-21 Store Street	Westminster	WC1E 7DB



TALK OF THE TOWN

MUSIC ★ THEATRE ★ PUBS

The entertainment scene in West London

■ **LOOKALIKES: Actors Ian Ashpitel and Jonty Stephens as the nation's favourite couple, Morecamble and Wise, staring in "Eric & Little Ern" at St James' Theatre from December 16th**

Reviving the nation's best loved couple

By Geoff Baker

STATISTICALLY it should be the show that is the sell-out sensation of the West End's Christmas, for its stars beat Lennon and McCartney, Posh and Becks and even 'my husband and I' as Britain's all-time favourite couple.

When the nation was asked to name the pair that we love the most, Morecambe and Wise won the most votes – only beaten, in a classic display of British humour, by the number who answered 'fish and chips' and 'tea and biscuits'.

So when the show that stormed the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, *Eric & Little Ern*, opens on December 16th at SW1's St James Theatre, expect there to be a rush for seats.

For many, Christmas is inconceivable without Morecambe and Wise. Even though all that we can have these days on the telly is repeats of their classic shows, even repeats still score highly in the ratings as viewers hanker after glory days of comedy.

To put their legend into context, consider this – last year *Mrs Brown's Boys* topped the Christmas Day TV ratings with an audience of 9.4 million viewers and *Strictly Come Dancing* was the fifth most-watched with 7.3 million. BBC1 controller Charlotte Moore called these, 'huge audiences'.

Really? 'Huge' these days perhaps, but tiny compared with the 28 million viewers who watched the Morecambe and Wise Christmas show of 1977.

Eric & Little Ern revisits those glory days with this two-handed homage to their heroes by actors Ian Ashpitel and Jonty Stephens which caused such a sensation at the Fringe that its success made the BBC News At Ten.

'Ashpitel and Stephens have got the duo's mannerisms down pat to such a winning extent that you could watch this show for hours,' reported *The Daily Telegraph*.It was 60 years ago this year that Eric and Ernie first came to television in a show called *Running Wild*. It was not best received and one critic wrote 'Definition of the week: TV set, the box in which they buried Morecambe and Wise'. Eric carried the cutting of that less-than-prescient review in his wallet ever after.

But after the pair were teamed with master writer Eddie Braden and producer John Ammonds – who had the idea of incorporating celebrity guests in the shows – the tide changed to one of endless tears of laughter as millions fell about to Eric's genius deadpan delivery of simple gags like 'life isn't Hollywood, life is Cricklewood' and 'the Des in Des O'Connor is short for desperate', and the pre-Python Pythonesque 'my neighbour asked if he could use my lawnmower; I told him of course, as long as he didn't take it out of my garden'.

Highest accolade

The stars loved them and it became the highest accolade in show business to be asked to do a guest spot on a Morecambe and Wise show. Legends including Laurence Oliver, John Mills, Tom Jones, Shirley Bassey, Cliff Richard, Rudolf Nureyev and Andre Previn all gladly stepped forward to be affectionately ridiculed by Eric's deliberate buffoonery, by which he called the famous conductor 'Andrew Preview' and Elton John 'Elephant John'.

Even The Beatles agreed to be the butt of Eric's wit and there have been more than 500,000 views on YouTube of the 1963 Morecambe and Wise classic where Eric cracked up John, Paul and George by straight-faced addressing Ringo as 'Bongo'.

Eric & Little Ern recreates the wonder of those days in a 90-minute show that is ideal for all the family, a blessed break from not-so-funny times.

Eric & Little Ern. Dec 16th- Jan 11th. St James Theatre, Palace Street, SW1E 5JA. Tickets from £20. www.ericandlittleern.com

■ **CLASSIC SKETCH: "Eric & Little Ern" comes to London after rave reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe**

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TALK OF THE TOWN ☆ The entertainment scene in West London

Celebrating a Hip Hop milestone

WESTWAY Presents and Hip Hop Honours UK are putting on a celebration of 40 years of Hip Hop culture at the Flyover, Portobello, today, Thursday Dec 11th, from 7.30 pm to 1.0 am

The event will showcase an intergeneration of the UK Hip Hop community and the local community bridging the gap between the old skool and the new skool, bringing together key figures to raise the educational attainment, social responsibility, positive self-expression and moral values for young people using Hip Hop art forms.

There will be live music performances by old skool, mid skool and new skool artists, DJs, B-boy (break-dancing) cypher, live scratching (DJs) and a screening of the History of Hip Hop Culture & Hip Hop Honours UK presentation. There will also be an introduction of the new 2015 award categories suggestion box for the public.

HOST: TJ Chill

Hip Hop Honours UK aims to raise awareness of the Hip Hop foundation based on ideal of holistic expression through Hip Hop creativity as an alternative way for positive recognition, being heard, being seen and becoming a legend along with its lifelong ethos of love, peace, unity and fun.

This event will be hosted by T J Chill (Zulu Nation), records will be spun on the night by legendary DJ MK, DJ Kuku and DJ Harry Love with special appearances by Rodney P, Power-Lords and many more artists, and special guests.

B-Boy DJ Jam Fu will lead the B-Boy/ B-Girl open cypher. The coverage of the event highlights will be broadcast on an online video channel at later date. Tickets cost £7 on the door.

Swinging sounds at jazz nights in the crypt

TURN up the heat this winter with a Jazz Night in the Café in the Crypt, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square.

The Café in the Crypt may be underground but there's no secret that it is one of London's hottest music venues. Listen to some swinging musicians, soak up some stunning Georgian architecture and enjoy fantastic food and drink provided by the team that was awarded the Les Routiers UK Cafe of the Year.

Wednesday January 7th
TJ Johnson's Bourbon Kick
An intoxicating cocktail of Dixieland, blues, country and gospel.

Wednesday January 14th
The Baker Boys
These swinging jazz musicians perform lively renditions from the riverboats of New Orleans, dance halls of Montmartre and Hot Club repertoire.

Wednesday January 21st
Heads South
A five-piece salsa band performing sizzling originals and revitalised jazz standards.

Wednesday January 28th
Miss Hoodoo and the Delta Boys
With hard-hitting vocals, heavyweight horns and a tight rhythm section Miss Hoodoo and the Delta Boys are one of the hottest bands on the London Blues scene.

Wednesday February 4th
The Silver Ghosts
Take a sentimental journey back to the dance halls of the 30s and 40s with this sensational seven-piece swing ensemble.

A tribute to the chairman of the board

Album Review by Geoff Baker

The Art Of McCartney – Various Artists [Bulletproof]

I'M possibly allowed a bit of an informed-opinion on this, as I know the chap a tad and have heard most of these songs sung by 'the right voice' something like 350 times on Sir Macca's tours and at his gigs.

It's not the best of Paul McCartney recordings in the world, but it very much is the world's best recordings of Paul McCartney; a superb, five-star idea to get what is essentially the cast of a Live Aid to do their covers of the top tunes of the songwriter considered by his business to be the chairman of the board.

When Macca decided in 1989 to end his live retirement and get back out again on the road which he has pretty much never left since, Wix [his keyboardist since 1989] used to say that the spectacularly-received gigs worked because 'the songs are being sung by the right voice'.

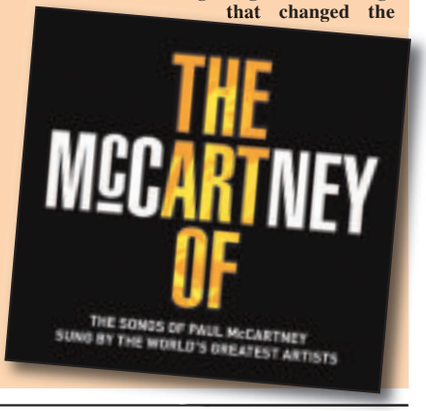
The right voice isn't even a whisper on this album, Paul had nothing to do with it. But Bob Dylan, The Cure, B.B. King, Smokey Robinson, Willie Nelson, Chrissie Hynde, Yusef-Cat Stevens, Toots Hibbert with Sly and Robbie, Dr John, Billy Joel, Corinne Bailey Rae, Brian Wilson, Jeff Lynne and 19 other top acts that make up this karaoke jukebox from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame appear to have done rather exceptionally well without him hanging about eating cheese and pickle sarnies in the control room.

The Kiss version of 'Rockshow' is typically excellent, Brian Wilson's 'Wanderlust' you'll play over and over, and I thought the boys from Cheap Trick on 'Jet'were Him for a moment. Smokey Robinson's cover of 'So Bad' is a Motown classic.

Harry Connick Jr's take of 'My Love' will bring tears, as does Paul's take on tour when about 50,000 Harry Connick juniors, seniors and senoritas are singing it too, and therein lies the point of this album – it's not just a nod to the guv'nor, it's a tribute to the songs. And done well, as here, and as he wrote them, they will be sung for a thousand years no matter whose voice is singing.

Mind you, Macca snuck in on this indirectly [huge surprise]; a lot of the songs have his long-standing and killer band playing behind some of the guest stars' vocals. As they play it as you know it, like the record, the results - as when Paul Rodgers rips up 'Let Me Roll It' and Roger Daltrey positively attacks 'Helter Skelter' – are glorious.

The ideal Christmas prezzie must for anyone who wants to sing along too to the songs that changed the



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Saturday 27 Dec - 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Monday 29 Dec - 2.30pm & 7.30pm
Tuesday 30 Dec - 2.30pm & 7.30pm
Wednesday 31 Dec - 2.30pm
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Bargain Buys

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IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT all £39.00. 14 metre kinkfree hose pipe (yellow), seed spreader; bag polystyrene beads, Black & Decker Hedge Cutter; small red woollen carpet, 5 litre fuel can, 2 small candle holder stacks. Bargains buyer takes all. 020 8850 8956

TELEPHONE/FAX OKI 4100 with users guide, working in good condition £20. Kitchen Sink stainless, steel with new taps and waste, 92.5 cent. long by 48.5 wide. Right hand drainer, could be moved to the left, nice and clean £60. 020 7733 1836 & 07877 818 162

3 SECTION LADDER each 6ft with standoff £35. Tefal Steam Iron £12, 2 Packets of 48 White Tiles £6, 4ft 6" Head board, beige, new £6. Juicer £8, Boys Bike with stabilizers suit from 5 years £8, Leather Jacket, tan, medium £6, Several records offers. Phone 020 8286 2677

ONE PAIR OF DINING ROOM CHAIRS in natural solid wood with blue seat base. £15 the pair. GOLF BAG (Wilson) with mixed bag of Silvar/Impala 3/Wilson/MacGregor golf set £25 the lot. XMAS TREE, white, 3ft, as new in box £3. Tel: 07779 105 015

SINK all white, currently used for storing plants £30 ono. Cat scratching post, 12" high with playball on firm stand £10. Tel: 020 8769 0597

1 PORTABLE GAS HEATER& BOTTLE 10kg, £20, 1 top glass dining table £3, 1 Bailey leather effect/jumbo cord, right hand sofa £80, 1 Pro Fitness folding magnetic exercise bike £30. All good condition. 020 8664 6628 / 07895 345 163

BUTLER SINK all white, 15 x 12", suitable for indoor plants in winter £30 ono. Fliptop kitchen bin, new, white £8, Dining Table extending two leaves for larger family/student meals. £18. Tel: 020 8769 0597

VERDISSIMO BOX OF 91 PRESERVED STEMLESS RED ROSE HEADS boxed in original packaging. Ideal for interior craft decorations, formal occasions. There is great potential only £30. ono 020 7403 4541

FILING CABINET metal, 4 drawers £15 ono. MINI PIE-MAKER, electric, tabletop with plug, recipe book, stands on 4ft on counter unused, still in box £16 ono. 020 8769 0597

BELL HUWELL PROJECTOR and screen and stand. Kershaw 8-20 Camera, Yashica UG camers, Hallina Super 8 camera in case. £60. 01322 463 385 M. 07765 316 293

LARGE COLLECTION OF OVER 200 LP RECORDS middle of the road genre incl. C8W, Opera, Latin America etc., offers to Call 020 8304 9180 - Bexleyheath

24 MAGNERS PINT GLASSES Government stamped £10 the case. 48 1/2 pint glases gov stamped £10 case. All brand new. 07949 005 946

SMALL XMAS TREE in box, in very good condition, £10. Can deliver. 07961 510 682

IRONING BOARD new, vgc £6. 07435 074 860 or 07716 027 681

Bicycles

MEN'S MOUNTAIN BIKE 26" wheels, 18 gears, very good condition £60 ono. Tel: 020 8330 2792

Book Shops

COMPLETE WORKS OF AGATHA CHRISTIE in 24 books, red covers, gold lettering, as new, can deliver £30. Cash to charity. 020 8698 0357

BRITANNICA BOOKS £20 the lot. 07435 074 860 or 07716 027 681

Children's Clothing

5 PIECES BOYS SUIT Georgeous Collection, black suit with cream shirt, cream waistcoat, cream tie and black trouser. Size 5, 7, 8, 10 and 12 years £35. Was £45, you save £10. 07741 451 373

Collectors Items

SUN-MAID RAISINS BUS (old fashioned) £15. Various linens £15 the lot. 07435 074 860 or 07716 027 681

COLLECTION OF CAT FIGURINES & TEA POTS & CASTS £20 ono. 020 8316 5251

Domestic Appliances

SINGER SEWING MACHINE in large cabinet 96 KSV £60. Bernina 1008 Electronic Table Sewing Machine £60. New Home 777. Overlocker £50. Taylors Dummy £15. 01322 463 385 m> 07837 198 518

BEKO FREE-STANDING GAS COOKER complet ewith connecting hose. Spotlessly clean, inside and out. In new condition, can deliver £100 ovno. 07961 510 682

DYSON VACUUM CLEANER bagless £35, all cleaned out, now like new. Demonstrated working £35. 020 8692 8449 possible to arrange delivery.

Domestic Appliances

ELECTROLUX UNDER WORKTOP FREEZER one year old in nearly, new condition, colour white £60 ovno. Buyer collects. 07956 223 576

DOUBLE HOT PLATE new, still in box. £15. Tel. 020 8858 7569

Electrical

PORTLAND ELECTRIC FIRE floor standing model 830, 2000 watts working in good condition £10 and 10 meters heavy duty extension cable for 4 sockets, white and in good condition £15. 020 7733 1836 & 97877 818 162

WHITE BUSH MICROWAVE model BMX608 size (h) 29.5, w), 45.8 (l). £17, VHS Sony VCR SLV-E220 RMTV2070E remote inc. £18, Bush Video 220-240v-50hz, VCR 902 inc. remote £18. 020 8670 4682

BROTHER ELECTRIC SEWING MACHINE fourteen stitches. Never been used but unboxed £50. 07594 170 292

Fashion

LADIES BLACK EVENING WEAR BOLERO STYLE JACKET 3/4 length sleeves, size 10, brand new £25. (cost more). A glamorous jacket for any occasion and crease resistant. Tel: 020 8682 0771.

LADIES THREE QUARTER LENGTH LEATHER COAT with hood, size 16-18, almost new condition £50 ono. Buyer collects, ideal for Christmas present. 07956 223 576

LADIES STYLISH BOLERO CASHMERE JACKET with black silk lining, long sleeves, new condition, stylish and smart, autumn gold odour £15. Tel: 020 8682 0771.

MEN'S MAROON JUMPER zip up collar, brand new, size large, ideal Xmas present, (chunky style) £10.00. Tel: 020 8682 0771

LADIES RED VELVET BAG with gold crest pattern on front with strap, intertwined with red & gold, new. £8.00. Tel: 020 8682 0771.

LADIES ELABORATE HAIR FACINATOR cinnamon colour feather with fabulous deign, brown clasp, brand new £15. tel: 020 8682 0771

GENTS BLACK LEATHER JACKET hip length, Marks & Spencer, size 41-43" chest. Very good condition £45. Phone 07906 439 816 (Blackheath).

MENS BRAND NEW 3/4 LENGTH MAC navy, size large only £20. New Windproof umbrella, black £5. 020 7733 0623

MARKS & SPENCERS DARK GREY SUIT chest 42-44, waist 38 Leg 30, exc cond. £10. Tel. 020 8853 2899

MEN'S LEATHER BLAUSON STYLE JACKET 3 XL £50 ono. Ideal Christmas Present. 07956 223 576

LARGE BLACK BAG OF VARIOUS LADIES CLOTHES £10 the lot. 07435 074 860 or 07716 027 681

Fires & Fireplaces

FREE STANDING MAHOGANY FRAME electric fire, coal effect with 2 heat settings, excellent condition £20. 020 8854 6037

Furniture

OCCASIONAL TABLE light wood, 80cm long 45cm wide x 70cm high when open. folds flat for easy storage etc etc. in ex condition. Ideal for small kitchen, bedroom, office etc, etc. Can deliver £30 ono. Solid Pine Bookshelf, freestanding or can be screwed to the wall, size 30 1/2 long, 36" high, 9" deep, 3 shelves £30 can deliver. 07961 510 682

BIG BARGAIN HOUSEHOLD SALE at SW19, all as new, small furniture, various kitchen ite,s, dishes, various sizes of see-through storage containers, rubbish bins, small electrical appliances, DVDs, CDs laser printer, handbags, rucksacks, sleeping bags, BBQ, garden furniture and much more. 07746 394 802

TALL UNIT 5 shelves, open front unit, white canvas, on wheels to move between room to room, ideal for children,toys, students £18 ono. Dining Table, dark brown, extends to large for family/student meals Tel. 020 8769 0597

2 MAHOGANY WARDROBES £50 each, 1 60's sideboard with bar £60. Buyer collects. 020 8674 2103

PORTABLE UNIT 5 shelves, open front, lightweight canvas on wheels to move between bedrooms, suitable for toys, student/guest room £18 ono. Metal Filing Cabinet, 4 drawers, office/home/student £18. 020 8769 0597

RECTANGULAR SOLID WOOD TABLE with leather inlay, 2'3" x 4', can be used as dining table, side table, office desk, etc. £65.00. Can deliver. 07961 510 682

G-PLAN SIDEBOARD teak, 3 draws, cupboards. £50. Buyer collects. 01322 463 385 M. 07765 316 293

TWO REAL LEATHER ARMCHAIRS light olive green £50 the pair. Room wanted urgent. 020 7732 6031

SOFA BED good condition, w 54", H "5", D 28" £25. Sewing machine £8. 07507 437 357

GREEN 3 SEATER COUCH £50. 020 8672 0190

BEECHWOOD 2 draw cabinet. £10. 020 8672 0190

Gardening Products

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FLYMO HOVER SUPERGLIDE 360 electric mower, built-in grass box, Demonstrated working, unwanted present £75. Expensive mower. Could arrange delivery.Tel: 020 8692 8449.

Health & Beauty

EMRON-NEBULISER COMPRESSOR brand new, with guarantee for asthma sufferers. All the family, never used. Cost £100. Sell for £50 ono. Wimbledon area, buyer collects complete with instructions. 07770 076 382

PHILISHAVE HS 355/S TRACER 30 minute charge, electronic rechargeable, vgc £15. 07435 074 860 or 07716 027 681

PHILISHAVE HS 355/S TRACER 30 minute charge, electronic rechargeable, vgc £15. 07435 074 860 or 07716 027 681

EXERCISE BIKE in excellent condition. £35. Buyer to collect.07931 310 238

SALON LASER LIFT made by Rio for face and body £28. 020 8771 5583

Household Goods

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Jewellery / Watches/Clocks

GOLD PLATED 2 OUNCE CURB BRACELET 2 ounce curb necklace £30 each. 020 8461 2790

Kitchen & Bathroom (4 Sale)

BIG BARGAIN HOUSEHOLD SALE at SW19, all as new, small furniture, various kitchen ite,s, dishes, various sizes of see-through storage containers, rubbish bins, small electrical appliances, DVDs, CDs laser printer, handbags, rucksacks, sleeping bags, BBQ, garden furniture and much more. 07746 394 802

HINARI MICROWAVE lifestyle, working order, good condition £8. 9 various sized stainless steel pans, including frying pan £10 the lot. 07435 074 860 or 07716 027 681

Mother & Baby

CHILD'S CAR SEAT Maxi Cosi Priori, 9mths to 3 1/2 years, grey & black, vgc, £20. Croydon 07765 128 886

THREE WHEELER PUSH CHAIR all extras, footmuff, raincover, shopping basket £20. Tel: 020 8853 2899

BLUE PRAM not buggy type. £10. 020 8672 0190

Miscellaneous Sales

1.4 lovely large glass Conran vases 31cmx16cm unused £25.each £.Dragon plant 5ft. with pot.90cmapprox £70.00 normally £190.00.Luxury Christmas wrapping paper £1.00 per roll. Tel.020 7351 9211

Pets & Livestock

PLASTIC DOG BASKETS £3 each or 2 for £5. 07435 074 860 or 07716 027 681

Shoes & Footwear

LADIES black leather loafer style shoes with gold buckle detail on front. brand new, size 5, smart casual design £19. Tel: 020 8682 0771

TV Video Audio

SONY 30" TELEVISION complete with Freeview Box and x2 remotes "silver" in new condition, can deliver £60. Electric Free Standing Cooker, very clean in new condition £100. Can deliver. 07961 510 682

HI-FI UNIT IN CABINET 120 watt output with record player, CD player, twin tapes, 2 large speakers. 01322 463 385. M. 07765 316 293

STEREO RADIO CASSETTES Sony, Hitachi, Sharp. All working order, offers over £30 the lot. 01322 463 385 M. 07765 316 293

32" TV with Freeview Box (not plasma) £50 020 8672 0190

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LEGO windows, doors, wheels, axles, figures, bases, some bricks but mainly accessories, Shooters Hill, Woolwich area. Will collect. 020 8854 5172

MODEL RAILWAY Items wanted by collector, Hornby Bachmann Lima but all makes considered, good prices paid. Call 020 8304 9180 with details

SUBBUTEO wanted, especially 1970's football teams. Tel: 07774 788 791 or 01344 453 370 or MrChrisAllen@aol.com

ANY RECORD BY RHETT STOLLER OR DESIN 07518 175 853

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UNUSED KITCHEN BACK DOOR for double glazing glass inc. width 82cm, height 2m, 19. 020 8674 0150

HEAVY DUTY CHAIN (3 mitres) £20. Tel. 020 8672 0190

4 PIPE CUTTERS £15 for 4. 020 8672 0190

LADDER STAY £5. 020 8672 0190

WALL PAPER STRIPPER £20. 020 8672 0190

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Jose Mourinho urging Blues to victory over Spurs. Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

TEN-MEN BLUES SEE IT THROUGH

CHELSEA began their defence of the FA Youth Cup with a stylish 2-0 win at Leeds United last week.

But Blues' under-18s had to do it at the hard way after going down to 10 following the sending-off of goalkeeper Bradley Collins in the opening minute of the second half.

Isaiah Brown had given Chelsea the lead from the penalty spot in the 18th minute after Tammy Abraham was needlessly brought down on the byline as the ball was about to run out of play.

Even with a man short, the young Blues kept playing with forward intent and were rewarded when they extended their lead in the 80th minute.

Skipper Charlie Colkett gained control in midfield and picked out Kyle Scott with a delightful pass. Scott, in turn, showed good vision to spot Dominic Solanke's diagonal run that broke the Leeds offside trap.

Solanke kept cool to round the keeper and slot home a bobbler with his left foot.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Saturday, December 13
Arsenal U18 v FULHAM U18, 10.45.
West Ham Utd U18 v CHELSEA U18, 11.00.
FULHAM U21 v Tottenham Hotspur U21, 1.00.
CHELSEA v Hull City, 3.00.
Leeds Utd v FULHAM, 3.00.

Sunday, December 14
CHELSEA U21 v Sunderland U21, 1.00.

Tuesday, December 16
Derby County v CHELSEA
(Capital One Cup QF), 7.45

Wednesday, December 17
FULHAM U21 v Athletic Bilbao U21
(Premier League International Cup), 7.00.

Chelsea near capital gains

AS if going for four major trophies this season is not enough to occupy the minds of Chelsea fans, the prospect of becoming the Premier League kings of London is now also on the horizon.

If you are into statistics, last week's 3-0 home win over Spurs was worth more than another three precious league points to Jose Mourinho and his players.

It has put Blues just one win away from overtaking Arsenal as London's leading team since the Premier League was formed 22 years ago.

As the 2014-15 'London' table below confirms, Chelsea have taken a maximum 12 points from four capital derbies so far this campaign, courtesy of victories against Arsenal, Crystal Palace, QPR and Spurs.

So if they can beat West Ham at Stamford Bridge on Boxing Day, Chelsea will equal the Gunners' overall points tally of 380 PL points . . . and claim all-time Premier League top spot in London thanks to their superior goal difference, which now stands at just three better than Arsene Wenger's side, who have played one game less than Blues!

We'll re-visit this intriguing quest for London supremacy later in the season.

LONDON PREMIER LEAGUE 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
CHELSEA	4	4	0	0	9	2	7	12
Tottenham H.	5	2	2	1	6	4	2	8
West Ham Utd	3	2	0	1	5	2	3	6
Arsenal	3	1	1	1	3	4	-1	4
Crystal Palace	4	0	1	3	3	7	-4	1
QPR	3	0	0	3	1	8	-7	0

ALL-TIME LONDON PREMIER LEAGUE (1992-93 to 2014-15)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Arsenal	207	108	56	43	349	201	148	380
CHELSEA	208	106	59	43	351	200	151	377
Tottenham H.	209	66	65	78	266	291	-25	263
West Ham Utd	171	54	36	81	191	262	-71	198
FULHAM	118	25	32	61	120	193	-73	107
Wimbledon	78	23	22	33	85	113	-28	91
Charlton Athletic	76	23	15	38	90	127	-37	84
QPR	63	17	18	28	62	82	-20	69
Crystal Palace	56	12	15	29	48	93	-45	51

Web source: www.thechels.co.uk

HARROWING FOR HAMMERS

● **RUGBY UNION**

Hammersmith & Fulham...22 Harrow...31

HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM went down to a rare home defeat to league leaders Harrow at Hurlingham Park on Saturday.

On what was a perfect day for running rugby, it was the Hammers who seemed to have the upper hand in the first 10-minute exchanges. H&F, working against a very strong and physical Harrow defence, managed to work their way into their half and secure the penalty just inside the 10-metre and out to the right.

With Neil McClure stepping up to attempt the tricky conversion, he was unfortunate to hit the right post, which sent the ball back into the field of play. The bounce favoured Harrow as the ball managed to avoid the approaching Hammers' attack, allowing the visitors to clear their lines.

H&F secured the ball following the clearance kick but the blitz defence allowed Harrow to make an intercept and score under the posts unopposed. This was then further compounded by Hammers conceding a very kickable penalty, enabling Harrow to extend their lead to 10 points.

It was at this stage that things seemed to take a turn. With H&F pressuring the kick off, Harrow chose to clear their lines with a box kick which was well fielded by Neil McClure, who had the dubious pleasure of the low winter sun in his eyes for the full 40 minutes.

A strong return by McClure gave the Hammers quick ball and from the ruck they set up a two-on-one situation on the opposite side of the field. This resulted in the Harrow XV knocking the ball down and receiving a yellow card.

From this, Hammers worked the opposition and from a good piece of line out driving and maul trickery, the home side drove over from five yards out for Joel Rabbidge to touch down and reduce the arrears to 5-10.

Alas, from this point Hammers' defence seemed to go into something of a 20-minute meltdown. The Harrow 12, who had an excellent game, broke the gain line and defence all too easily and some good offloading allowed Harrow to dominate the remainder of the first half as they ran in a number of tries to rack up a 31-5 lead at the interval.

The second half started in complete contrast to the first, with Harrow getting the upper hand in the early exchanges. But apart from spending quite some time in the H&F 22 and with the defence operating efficiently, they were unable to turn pressure into points and an insolated runner gave H&F the penalty they needed to clear their lines.

This still gave Harrow strong field position and through a number of driving mauls it was eventually Hammers' 9, Andrew Smith, who, after his second high tackle of the day, was sent for a 10-minute break. Even with some hasty changes, Hammers managed to hold and clear their lines.

Over the next 10 minutes, H&F started to apply pressure and after a clearance kick found James Lo, some individual brilliance saw him evade a number of tackles and power away from the defence and, drawing the fullback, put Neil McClure away for Hammers' first score of the half.

From the resulting kick-off, H&F then worked their way back into Harrow territory and thanks to some quick passing down the left-hand side, set up another one-on-one for James Lo, who powered away to touch down.

As the game started to open up and H&F subs made a significant impact with some strong running, crisp passing and offloading, they set up Will Buchanan on the right-hand side. With a lot of work still to do and with a good step, he found space to take himself to the Harrow try-line. However, knowing he needed the conversion, he passed inside to Joel Rabbidge who proceeded to literally fall over the line and was judged forward by the referee.

A strong Hammers scrum, which was a theme of the day, pressured Harrow 's number 8 into picking. From the clearance, again well fielded by the H&F back three, and a strong Hammers were back into the Harrow 22. Some strong forward running and with Josh Sargent filling in at 9, H&F worked their way to within only a few yards of the try-line. A quick pass out left saw Harrow numbers stretched, allowing Simon Doherty to dance through the defence and, with a long reach, put Hammers in contention for the bonus point, if notvictory.

But with 15 minutes still to play and Hammers giving away some soft penalties, Harrow took control and managed to see the game out as well as clinch the full five points.

This Saturday Hammers face an away London League 2 visit to Old Haberdashers.

Blue & White In Brief

■ **CHELSEA Under-18s won the top-of-the-table clash with Leicester City at frosty Cobham on Saturday.**

Isaac Christie-Davies put the hosts in front after 20 minutes before Charly Musonda doubled the advantage five minutes into the second half.

Leicester fought back and reduced the deficit quickly courtesy of Fox's fierce drive but it was Blues who claimed all three league points and now sit top of the division, just ahead of Leicester and Spurs on goal-difference.

Chelsea: Collins, Aina, Tomori, Clarke-Salter, Dasilva, Sammut, Scott, Musonda; Christie-Davies, Abraham, Palmer.

■ **FULHAM U18s were beaten 3-1 at Reading on Saturday, when a late Ryan Sessignon strike proved no more than a consolation for the Whites.**

Cardwell put the home side two up inside half-an-hour before Reading put the game beyond doubt with their third in the 62nd minute.

Josh Walker missed a chance to pull one back for Fulham when he blazed his penalty over the bar on 80 minutes.

Fulham: Norman, Fossey, Edun (Sessignon 55), Elworthy, Opoku, Smile, Nabay, Adeniran, Buffonge (De La Torre 55), Humphrys, Walker.

■ **FORMER Fulham player Reg Lowe died last week.**

Reg joined the Whites from Aston Villa in May 1950, alongside his brother Eddie, and went on to make 72 appearances for the Whites.

He made his debut in a first division win at Sunderland and was the club's first choice full-back from December onwards in the 1950-51 campaign, when Fulham managed to preserve their top-flight status.

A regular, too, for the following season-and-a-half, his career was cut short when he suffered a leg break in a league match at Luton Town in January 1953.

London Weekly News

SPORT

Thursday, December 11th 2014 ● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

Loic Remy (centre) is congratulated by team-mates after scoring Blues' third against Spurs last week. Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Drogba and Remy are ready

DESPITE losing for the first time this season at Newcastle on Saturday and conceding three points to their nearest rivals Manchester City in the race for the title, Chelsea have the firepower to stay on course for all the silverware they are pursuing.

● By LWN reporter **Tony McDonald**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Big summer signing and leading scorer Diego Costa looked below par in the recent draw at Sunderland and the 2-1 defeat at Newcastle, where Blues' 15-match unbeaten run undeservedly came to an end.

But why should Jose Mourinho lose sleep over these recent blips when he has the luxury of being able to call on two quality strikers who would walk into most teams in Didier Drogba and Loic Remy?

When suspension ruled Costa out of the last home game against Spurs, both back-up forwards emerged as scorers (along with Eden Hazard) in the 3-0 victory.

And it was Drogba who gave Blues late hope at St James' Park, where he came off the bench to reduce the deficit seven minutes from time when he glanced home a header from Cesc Fabregas' free-kick.

Although the visitors laid siege to the Newcastle goal, pushing for what would have been a deserved equaliser during the closing stages, they were unable to find the breakthrough as lucky Newcastle held on.

As Chelsea continue to plough their way through a hectic December schedule that sees them play eight games in 25 days, Mourinho will need to rotate his squad more than he would wish to. The tetchy Costa is showing signs that he would benefit from a breather in what is bound to be a challenging first season in the Premier League, especially with vulnerable hamstrings that need constant managing and which caused him to miss a chunk of last season at Atletico Madrid.

"I keep saying it's very difficult for a player to play every game in December. If we have eight matches I would say the maximum a player can play is seven," says Mourinho, indicating that he will rotate his squad in the closing weeks of this year.

Mourinho can have no fears about giving more game time to either Drogba or Remy, who are both clearly hungry to impress, whereas I don't see Manchester City coping anything like as well if their goal scoring talisman Sergio Aguero – 19 goals from 20 matches – is ruled out for any length of time due to the knee ligament injury he suffered in their win over Everton on Saturday. Drogba and Remy will cause opposing defences more concern than City's two back-up strikers, Dzeko and Jovetic.

At the other end, in Thibaut Courtois have signed arguably the best all-round goalkeeper in the Premier League, undoubtedly one of the finest in Europe. City's Joe Hart is not in his class.

The 22-year-old Courtois has settled into the cut and thrust of the English game with remarkable assurance for one so young, especially when you compare his flawless displays to David de Gea's jittery start to his Manchester United career three seasons ago. Courtois had no chance of saving either of Newcastle's goals.

The defeat on Tyneside ended the debate about whether Mourinho's side could match Arsenal's Invincibles.

Ten years on from Arsene Wenger's unbeatable Premier League champions, Chelsea had begun this campaign in fine style, winning 11 of their first 14 top flight contests and drawing the other three.

Victories at Everton and Liverpool, draws at Manchester City and Manchester United, plus a home win over Arsenal, seemed to suggest the Blues were up to any test after going 20 games unbeaten in all competitions.

However, a Papiss Cisse double in the space of 11 minutes at St James' Park brought Chelsea's streak to an end – and sparked debate about how they would respond, with second-placed Man City closing the gap at the top to three points.

Of the seven Premier League teams to go unbeaten for at least their first 14 games only three have gone on to win the title. Can Mourinho's men bounce back from Saturday's disappointment to win the league?

Of course they can – and almost certainly will.

As Mourinho says: "If you ask all the others 19 clubs if they would like to be in our position they would say 'yes', because we are still at the top."

Blues' fans will expect nothing less than a convincing home win against struggling Hull City at Stamford Bridge this Saturday, as well as progress to the semi-final of the Capital One Cup when they travel to promotion-chasing Derby County for next Tuesday's last eight tie.

"We were unlucky," a philosophical Mourinho said after the Newcastle defeat. "The best team lost, the team that tried to win lost, but that's football.

"What's important is that it's the kind of defeat which is easy to accept. I don't like to lose when the referee isn't good and I blame him, which isn't the case. He was very good and had no influence on the result. I don't like to lose and blame my players because they were complacent, didn't play, didn't produce or the attitude wasn't good, that's not the case, so I'm happy about that."

He added: "We were unlucky, we didn't score goals when we could have and we conceded the only times they crossed the midfield line, but that's football and accept it."

Mourinho would not admit it publicly, but he couldn't have been happy about Gary Cahill's failure to clear Ameobi's low cross that led to Magpies' first goal, or John Obi Mikel heading a golden chance wide from six yards. Mikel is not in the side to score goals but this was an early Christmas gift spurned.

Worse, though, was his rash decision to dive in as Newcastle hit Chelsea on the break again seconds before their killer second goal. You can't imagine that the suspended Nemanja Matic would have left his back four so hopelessly exposed to the counter-attack.

Cahill, who had made a shaky start to the Spurs match in midweek, is the best central defender available to England manager Roy Hodgson and is likely to remain so for many seasons to come.

But his Chelsea partner John Terry still towers above all his Premier League peers in every sense and, now that he is free of international distractions, is looking as solid as ever despite turning 34 last weekend. Cahill is fortunate to be able to serve his apprenticeship alongside Blues' veteran skipper at club, if not international, level.

This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

Focus on Craven Cottage

Patience key to Fulham future

IT has become a well-worn cliche in football and most other professional sports to 'take the positives' from what on the face of it appear to be disastrous situations.

We are accused of negativity if we complain and sulk these days after our team has been on the wrong end of a serious walloping, while badly beaten managers and players are now actually coached to somehow pluck at least a few crumbs of comfort from the most diabolical outcomes when asked to explain themselves to the media.

And yet, Fulham's 5-0 home defeat by Watford last Friday was perhaps one such occasion that warranted putting into proper context and a deeper analysis beyond the harsh facts.

In truth, this televised Championship clash was effectively over as soon as Watford took a 2-0 lead in the 15th minute – in those decisive, damaging moments between Whites' keeper Marcus Bettinelli being correctly sent-off for conceding the penalty and denying a clear goal-scoring chance, and Deeney's spot kick being slotted past sub goalie Gabor Kiraly.

It was another classic example of why the game's authorities should perhaps consider amending their rules to spare teams being punished twice for the same offence.

Watford were awarded the penalty when Bettinelli upended Vydra and scored from it – but why impose a double blow by reducing a team by one player?

Or, as in this case, a triple whammy, because Fulham also lost one of their most creative influences when Bryan Ruiz had to make way for the sub keeper.

The sending-off – Bettinelli will only miss Saturday's trip to Leeds – killed the game as a spectacle, although none of those wearing yellow and red were complaining.

Down to 10 men for 70 minutes against a Watford side who had looked superior from the start and fully deserving of their 15th minute lead, it was always going to be one-way traffic from there on, even against a team that had lost its previous four matches.

So what were the tiny crumbs of comfort for manager Kit Symons, his players and Fulham fans to take away from this heavy defeat?

Firstly, consider the youthfulness of the home side. Right-back Jack Grimmer (20) and midfielder Seko Fofana (19) were making their full home debuts, while the kid who replaced Fofana on the hour mark, George Williams (19), will also have gained invaluable experience in adversity.

This is a Fulham side in transition and the senseless booing of the manager and his team as they trooped off towards the old cottage at half-time was uncalled for. It's clearly not the fault of Symons nor his players that Fulham are where they are now and patience is what is called for.

As Symons pointed out afterwards, even allowing for Watford taking their foot off the pedal in the second half, his team didn't throw in the towel, despite being 3-0 down at the break against a competent passing side who sensibly used the full width of the pitch.

"Although 5-0 is a heavy, heavy defeat, it wasn't a capitulation," said Symons. "Certainly, second half I thought the boys showed real spirit and character.

"You can get 5-0 defeats where people down tools a little bit. I'm pleased to say the one small crumb of comfort I can get from the game is that that didn't happen to the team tonight."

Young Blues shine in cup defence – page 27